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Senior complaints lead to change on drug plan cuts

JEFF CUMMINGS
jeff.cummings@metronews.ca

COVERAGE The government will overhaul its drug plan for seniors after getting hundreds of complaints ever since it announced cuts to drug coverage four months ago.

Health Minister Ron Liepert says the cuts would have saved the government \$30 million a year, but a new and complex plan announced Thursday would save the government \$20 million annually. That's \$10 million less than the previous plan.

"My intention is to show that we've listened to seniors' concerns, that we want to maintain a policy that more reflects the future," said Liepert.

"We don't want a policy that is a one-size-fits-all."

Music pg 22



The cure for writers block

Celebrity Buzz pg 31

J.Lo not baby ready

ShareYourViews
calgaryletters@metronews.ca



Diehard Calgary Flames fans, like these ones outside of Melrose Café and Bar Thursday afternoon, will be cheering on their hometown hockey heroes as the Flames look to take the series lead in Saturday night's Game 5 matchup against the Chicago Blackhawks.

Hand in my pocket

Taxpayers faced with 4.6 per cent tax hike from city council

SHAWN LOGAN
for Metro Calgary

Calgary homeowners will have to dig deeper this year as council gets ready to approve a property tax hike that will boost the average annual bill by \$95.

When the city's municipal tax grab is combined with this year's provincial education take, the average taxpayer will be facing a 4.6 per cent hike, which for a median assessed property worth \$427,500 will mean a \$2,138 bill in 2009.

On Monday council will

debate the increase but Mayor Dave Bronconnier said were it not for the province continuing to pull millions out of Calgary every year, residents would have enjoyed no property tax hike at all this year.

"Municipalities in their current form are not sustainable and you don't have to keep asking taxpayers for more money," he said.

"If the province were to leave the local property taxes at the local level, we wouldn't have to have any of these public debates."

Out of every property tax

dollar, 52 cents will remain in the city while the remaining 48 cents goes into the province's Alberta School Foundation Fund to be redistributed to school boards.

Alberta Municipal Affairs spokesman Jerry Ward said while Calgary taxpayers will hand over \$580 million from property taxes this year, the local public and separate boards will be given a cheque for \$1.24 billion.

He noted despite Bronconnier's ongoing call for the province to drop its annual grab of property taxes, that isn't on the govern-

ment's radar.

Ald. Ric McIver said he plans to renew his opposition to this year's budget and the associated tax increase on Monday because it's still more burden than taxpayers should have to bear.

"When you look at that \$95, it doesn't come close to what the real charge is when you include another \$8 per month for recycling and \$4 for garbage," he said.

"If the province chooses to fund us a bit better that doesn't excuse us for looking where we can to save the taxpayers money."

Humane Society sees increased surrenders

KRISTA SYLVESTER
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MONEY The number of pets surrendered to the Calgary Humane Society has risen this year because of the economy, the animal shelter said yesterday.

Spokeswoman Pamela Amos said the shelter took in only nine surrenders last January, compared with 23 this January. Already this year, there have been 34 surrenders up until now.

"It's definitely because of the economy. When people surrender their pets we ask them why and they have said it's because they can't afford them anymore," Amos said.

Amos said surrendering pets is usually a last resort.

"It's obviously really sad for them," she said. "But at the same time, we're glad they are bringing their pets to us instead of leaving them at the city limits."

Droppoffs are not just restricted to dogs and cats; the shelter sees rabbits too, dropped off by people who can no longer afford their food, maintenance and medical bills.

Karen, who wished to withhold her last name, said she had to drop three cats off to the Humane Society earlier this year.

"It was really sad for me," she said. "But I didn't really have a choice because my work hours were cut."



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40,000 procedures

The Canada Border Service Agency (CBSA) made the largest-yet seizure of unreported currency at the Coutts border Thursday. It seized \$477,000 US, and a 33-year-old Calgary man was arrested after they found the cash after searching a truck and trailer. **METRO CALGARY**

Local



Blood-testing, Mosquito style

A skin patch has been designed that could provide a less-invasive alternative for diabetics who take regular samples of their own blood. A device the size of a deck of cards, bites sequentially at programmed intervals through four micro-needles that are programmed to penetrate skin, but not deep enough to hit a nerve.

METRO CALGARY

Lindsay still supportive of Tasers

JEFF CUMMINGS
and KRISTA SYLVESTER

Alberta solicitor general Fred Lindsay says he still feels confidence about the use of Tasers after a government test showed more than 10 per cent of the devices used by police services were malfunctioning.

A total of 412 newer and

late-model Tasers were tested by a technology firm in Ontario and 50 were found that didn't operate within specifications, according to a government report.

Less than 20 of the malfunctioning devices were giving out a jolt that was higher than tolerable, the report said.

Lindsay, who was once jolted by a Taser, believes the test still ensures Tasers

are an effective tool in law enforcement.

"We bought an instrument that was supposed to be up to specifications and we weren't going to deviate from that, regardless if they were slightly over or significantly over," said Lindsay.

"We pulled them out of the market and we had

them recertified or destroyed."

Lindsay says another 735 Tasers used by all police forces in the province, including the Calgary Police Service, will be tested immediately.

In Calgary, 31 of the force's 190 Tasers were found to be out of the manufacturer's specifications.



Fred Lindsay

However, Supt. Trevor Daroux said the deviations were so miniscule that it wouldn't have impacted proper use of the device.

"They remain a very valuable use-of-force option for our officers. None of the results show that the devices do not work properly," Daroux said.

With that said, Daroux said the police force supports testing on all of the

Tasers, even though they will be responsible for the costs.

"We will support and work with the solicitor general to ensure these remain a viable option," he added.

Over the next few months the rest of the city's stun guns will be tested in phases, Daroux said. Currently, there are enough stun guns to assign one per squad car.

Violent robbery concerns police

BANK HEIST Calgary police are concerned with the level of violence displayed during a bank robbery in the city's northeast Thursday morning.

Acting Insp. Keith Cain said two female employees were confronted by a man with a gun and forced into the vault where he made them stay until police arrived. The man escaped with an undisclosed amount of money.

METRO CALGARY

metronews.ca
WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Videos City officials hold mock state of emergency to prepare for a possible spring flood at metronews.ca/local

Videos Vancouver police show dramatic footage of the arrest of alleged gang members at metronews.ca/canada



Doors open on new recycling plant

SHAWN LOGAN
for Metro Calgary

OPENING Piles of old newspapers, tin cans and plastic bags represent a bright future for Calgary, says Mayor Dave Bronconnier.

The mayor on Thursday marked the official opening of the privately operated southeast recycling plant that will be the collection and sorting hub for the city's recently launched blue bin program.

Despite some lingering concerns over the \$8-per-month bill that will have to be paid by the 300,000 homes that will receive carts over the next few months, Bronconnier said Calgarians already participating seem pleased at the green option.

"I think Calgarians have embraced recycling," he said.

"The majority of Calgarians support curbside recycling and the next step in the program will be to look at multi-family



Tony Majauskas, supervisor, looks over the new piles of waste being brought in for recycling as the city helped officially open a privately operated SE sorting facility. The facility kicked into high gear Thursday as it started gathering, sorting and recovering recycled materials.

dwelling."

The facility, which is owned and operated by Metro Waste Paper Recovery Inc., will sort and process up to 40 tonnes of mixed recyclables every hour and up to 120,000 tonnes per year.

So far only communities in the city's southwest have begun receiving the service with homes in the southeast quadrant slated to begin having blue cart pick up on May 12.

The northwest and northeast quadrants will

get service starting on June 9 and June 30 respectively.

Video CityTV's Ross Hull takes a tour of the new plant recycling plant at metronews.ca/local

Three charged in C-Train assault, including injured

FIGHT A 17-year-old teenager left with a brain injury following a fight earlier this month has now been charged with assault.

The brain-injured teenager and his friend were involved in a fight on April 4 on an overpass connected to the Canyon Meadows C-Train station and at the time, police were asking for more information.

"There is a line that is crossed where you go from defending yourself or someone else to assaulting someone," Det. Jeff Anderson told reporters.

Police said the altercation began with the injured male and his friend assaulting an adult male who did not retaliate. That's when two young men stepped in to help the adult male, Anderson said.

Two other teenagers were already charged in relation to the incident.

KRISTA SYLVESTER/
METRO CALGARY

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**BEST
BUY**

Those wondering what all of the emergency service commotion was Thursday along the banks of the Bow River in Bowness, Parkland and Kensington will be happy to know it was only a training exercise for the city in case of massive flooding in the area. **METRO CALGARY**

Police seize drugs, cash from house

CHARGES Police seized nearly \$3,100 worth of crack cocaine from a 17th Avenue home Thursday.

Marijuana, as well as cash and over \$10,000 in stolen property were also found in the home.

Chad Ilk, 33, and Ria Guifarro, 28, have been charged with one count each of drug trafficking and proceeds of crime. Ashley Hoogervorst, 23, was charged with possession of marijuana.

METRO CALGARY

Calgary second in putting off taxes

TAX Calgarians are the second-biggest tax procrastinators, according to results from QuickTax online.

Cowtown was only beaten out by Toronto in the rankings of online tax filers who wait until the last minute, with Edmonton coming in fourth. The list of 10 cities is based on the number of tax returns filed electronically via QuickTax Online between April 29 and 30.

METRO CALGARY

Two dead in Edmonton

Robber kills spa owner, then shoots himself when police arrive

VICTORIA HANDYSIDES
for Metro Calgary

The sharp crack of gunfire rang twice through a quiet morning in southeast Edmonton Thursday, and within minutes, two men were dead.

Around 10:15 a.m., a robber burst through the door of Bella Tonic Spa, a family-run salon and laser-hair clinic.

A male thrust a loaded handgun at employees and demanded cash. A man working in the salon confronted the gunman.

"A shot was fired and the employee was killed," said police spokesman Jeff Wuite.

Frantically, a woman called 9-1-1, telling the operator she thought her husband had been murdered. Emergency crews rushed to the scene to attempt to save the man's life. He was dead by the time crews arrived.



Two people are dead, including the shooter, police said after a daytime shooting at a suburban strip mall in Edmonton.

The shooter sprinted away, two blocks north to Millbourne Shopping Centre, where he attempted another robbery, this time at a liquor store.

Police arrived within minutes, blocking off the entrance to Millbourne

Liquor.

When the defeated man realized he was surrounded, he turned the gun on himself.

Inira Saroya and her husband Joginder have known the family who owns Bella Tonic for many years, and

said the shooting has shaken their faith in the neighbourhood.

"They are really nice people," Joginder said. "This is really shocking."

Police were unable to confirm the identity of either man Thursday.

Drop-in centre celebrates grads

CAREERS A dozen members of the graduating class at the Calgary Drop-In and Rehab Centre are now a step closer to getting their foot in the door of a city workplace.

The Centre's Career Training Initiative's 50th graduation class held its ceremonies Thursday to celebrate their accomplishments.

"It's a significant milestone for us as it represents over 300 individuals who have achieved a level of industry certification they didn't imagine possible before the program," co-ordinator Jason Mackay said.

After arriving during the city's boom, Randy Freng bounced from job to job until he landed at the shelter, where he stayed for a couple of years until graduating from the class.

"I have all my tickets and I thank the program co-ordinators for helping me," he said, adding he encourages the new graduates to flourish with the same opportunity.

KRISTA SYLVESTER/METRO CALGARY

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Marijuana busts in two days worth \$840,000

Back-to-back pot busts on consecutive days have netted the Southern Alberta Marijuana Investigation Team (SAMIT) and the Cochrane RCMP 673 marijuana plants worth an estimated \$840,000. The warrants were executed on April 21 and 22 in the Gleneagles and Glenbow areas, respectively. **METRO CALGARY**

Trudeau visits high school

WYNZIE CHAI
for Metro Calgary



SPEAKER "How can you make a difference?" That's the question Liberal MP Justin Trudeau asked 225 advanced-placement so-



Ana Villreal, Gr. 12; Sara Rennie, Gr. 11; Justin Trudeau; Rosemary Grover, Gr. 11; Mikaela Forkhiem, Gr. 12.

cial-studies students Thursday at St. Francis High School.

Trudeau, MP for the riding of Papineau in Quebec, spoke to high school students about the future of the country.

"You're not the leaders of tomorrow. We don't need you to be the leaders of tomorrow. We need you to be the leaders of today," said Trudeau.

Student Ana Villreal was impressed by Trudeau because she said he didn't speak to them like a "bunch of kids."

"He made it seem as though we were the ones with the important opinions," she said.

News in brief

POLITICS Alberta NDP Leader Brian Mason alleged Thursday that a security guard prevented him from entering government house on Thursday to comment on the Stelmach government's seniors drug announcement. "If there was ever any doubt, today's actions have cast it aside — this is indeed the most secretive government in Canada," Mason said.

WARRANT The Calgary police are asking for public assistance in locating a Calgary woman wanted on an Alberta-wide warrant. Correna Elizabeth Van-Tol, 41, of Calgary, is wanted for stalking/criminal harassment. Anyone with information is asked to call police at 403-266-1234. Anyone spotting Van-Tol should not approach her, but call 911. **METRO CALGARY**



Six-year-old Rosie McDougald frolics with future seeing-eye dog Finn Thursday at an event for the second Annual Comic Vision next week. McDougald has a rare genetic disease that causes blindness.

Fundraiser to fight blindness

KRISTA SYLVESTER
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Even though it was snowy outside, these kids and puppies were all sunglasses and smiles Thursday.

A group of children between four and 14-years-old with vision problems met

their potential future guide dogs yesterday at a special event for the launch of the second Annual Comic Vision fundraiser next week.

Natasha McDougald's six-year-old daughter helped spur last year's inaugural Comic Vision fundraiser that garnered \$69,000 towards the Foun-

dation Fighting Blindness.

"We just hope that this money will help prevent some of these children from going blind," McDougald said.

The fundraiser on April 26 will feature popular comics including Mike MacDonald at Hotel Arts. For information, visit www.ffb.ca.

Chabot hopes to save base

RIDING Facing the prospect of having his east Calgary ward moved to the north side, Ald. Andre Chabot will make his final pitch Monday to save his political base.

City council has to redraw the boundaries for all 14 wards prior to the 2010 election to reflect population changes, but the solution being proposed by administration will see Ward 10 relocated, despite the opposition of its alderman.

Chabot will come armed with two alternative options that will allow him to remain on Calgary's east side, which he has served since 2005 following a by-election.

Chabot noted if his last gasp fails, he has 60 days to file a petition to overturn a council decision.

If that also doesn't work, Chabot said he would run in an existing eastern riding, likely in Ward 9 against Ald. Joe Ceci.

SHAWN LOGAN/FOR METRO CALGARY

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Owners of flooded property should learn within weeks, rather than months, whether the Manitoba government will offer to buy them out. Emergency Measures Minister Steve Ashton said the province has learned lessons from the aftermath of the flood of 1997. **CBC NEWS ONLINE**

Canada



Kyoto numbers rise

Greenhouse gas emissions from industrialized nations rose by nearly one per cent in 2007, led by strong gains in the United States, official data showed. Carbon emissions from countries signed up to the Kyoto Protocol climate pact edged up by 0.1 per cent in 2007, mainly due to rises in Japan and Canada. "The numbers are ... a bit depressing," said Knut Alfsen, research director at the Centre for International Climate and Environmental Research in Oslo, Norway. **REUTERS**

Ex-PM wanted me quiet: Author

INQUIRY Author William Kaplan said Thursday Brian Mulroney repeatedly tried to stop him from making public that the former prime minister took \$300,000 in cash from arms dealer Karlheinz Schreiber.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

IPHONES Apple Inc. didn't win any votes with parents, child advocacy groups or health experts across North America this week by offering a game called Baby Shaker to iPhone customers. Apple pulled it from its iTunes store Wednesday.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Ukraine Jean tours Europe



Ukraine's President Viktor Yushchenko listens to Canadian Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean in Kiev Thursday while visiting a monument dedicated to the mass famine of 1932-33. Jean will go on to Norway following the state visit.

PM backs Khadr jailing

Harper firm despite court order to seek man's return

Prime Minister Stephen Harper continues to support the U.S. imprisonment of Omar Khadr, despite a federal court ordering him to seek the Toronto-born captive's return from the cells of Guantanamo.

Federal Court Justice James O'Reilly ruled Thursday that Canada had denied Khadr his constitutional right to a fair trial and violated international law protecting children captured in armed conflict. "Canada had a duty to protect Mr. Khadr from be-

ing subjected to any torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, from being unlawfully detained, and from being locked up for a duration exceeding the shortest appropriate period of time," he wrote.

Highlighting the fact that Khadr was only 15 when shot and captured by U.S. forces in Afghanistan, O'Reilly concluded that Ottawa must request that the "United States return Mr. Khadr to Canada as soon as practicable."

But when questioned in

Commons yesterday about whether he will seek Khadr's return, Harper said his government's position remains the same.

"The facts in our judgment have not changed. We will be looking at the judgment very carefully and obviously considering an appeal," Harper said.

Khadr has been in U.S. custody since he was shot and captured in Afghanistan in July 2002. He is now 22 and the only citizen of a western nation still imprisoned.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

INFORMATION FEATURE

You have choices when it hurts



When pain becomes too much, some kids will harm themselves, says counsellor Sharon Girgis.

SELF-HARM When pain gets too hard to take, some kids deal with the problem the only way they know how — by harming themselves.

It's a problem that Sharon Girgis, a counsellor with Kids Help Phone, has seen all too often because kids often haven't learned good ways to cope with stress and pain.

"If kids have gone through some sort of personal trauma or stressful

situation or emotional pain, in general self-harm is what they'll do to divert their attention from the emotional to the physical," she said.

While adults can often find methods just as destructive to deal with their problems, kids are at a disadvantage because they may not understand there are better options.

"People will always have a variety of harmful coping mechanisms open to

Contact

• Kids Help Phone can be reached at 1-800-668-6868.

them, and many kids are at an age where they are still developing their helpful coping mechanisms," Girgis said.

In her eight years as a counsellor, Girgis has seen a wide variety of self-harm cases ranging from minor

to life-threatening, but said the one thing that always holds true across all cases is that despite the perception of relief it gives, self-harm never solves the underlying problems that cause it.

"If you ask people what they get from self-harming, they say they go numb while they're doing

it. But once the cutting stops, the problem is still there full-force. It doesn't really fix anything," Girgis said.

While Girgis said eating disorders were more common in the 1980s, self-harm has quickly become the negative coping tool of choice for kids in recent years.

"Definitely

in the last 10

years there's been an increase in self-harm, and experts don't entirely know why. A big part of it is exposure and word-of-mouth. Kids hear about it and want to try it out," Girgis said.

Girgis said kids who harm themselves can get caught up in a vicious cycle of guilt, hiding their wounds, lying about their behaviour while not addressing the root problem and, in many cases, exacerbating it. Many kids are too afraid to talk to their parents or loved ones about their self-harm problem and Girgis hopes those kids will take advantage of the experience, confidentiality and care that Kids Help Phone counsellors are ready to provide.

"There's always help out there if you choose it, and no matter how bad you feel about your behaviour there's always someone out there who understands and wants to help," Girgis said.



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A tree that covers a large area of eastern Ethiopia but has only recently been categorized by botanists raises hope for finding new species elsewhere, experts said. The acacia fumosa tree was not "found" for scientific purposes until 2006, most likely because its main habitat is a war zone. **REUTERS**

World



Bony or beautiful?

Australia's Miss Universe contest was thrown into controversy Thursday, with doctors and dieticians complaining the leading finalist, Sydney model Stephanie Naumoska, left, who is five-foot-11 and weighs 108 pounds, was "skin and bones" and dangerously malnourished. **REUTERS**

Deadly suicide blasts hit Iraq

Two suicide bombers wearing vests full of explosives blew themselves up in separate attacks on Thursday, killing at least 76 people, including many Iranian pilgrims, in what appeared to be Iraq's bloodiest day in over a year.

Shortly after the two attacks, the authorities in Baghdad said they had arrested the purported leader of an al-Qaida-affiliated insurgent group, Abu Omar al-Baghdadi. His arrest, which has been reported before, could not be confirmed.

One of the attacks occurred near Muqadadiya, 80 kilometres northeast of Baghdad. The suicide bomber targeted a group of Iranian pilgrims in a crowded roadside restaurant at lunchtime. All but



A resident looks out from a damaged window after a bomb attack in Baghdad Thursday. A suicide bomber wearing a vest stuffed with explosives blew himself up in a group of police distributing relief supplies in Baghdad, killing at least 28.

two of the 48 dead were pilgrims. Seventy-seven people were wounded.

The other blast took place in central Baghdad as a group of Iraqi national

police were distributing relief supplies to families driven from their homes at the height of the violence. Twenty-eight people

died and 50 were wound-

ed, with at least five children and two Red Crescent workers among the dead. Some witnesses said the bomber was a woman.

REUTERS

UN sending aid team to Sri Lankan war zone

COLOMBO UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said Thursday he was sending a humanitarian team to Sri Lanka, where thousands are trapped as troops push to end a 25-year war with Tamil Tiger rebels.

Ban's decision came after the military said an exodus of 103,000 people from the tiny coastal strip had slowed, four days after troops blew up a barrier the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) built to stop them from escaping.

Traumatized

- Thousands of people fleeing the war zone are arriving at hospitals with horrific injuries and severe trauma, doctors said.

The safety of the remaining tens of thousands in the 13-square-kilometre area prompted the Security Council to demand the LTTE surrender and Sri Lanka institute a pause to the fighting. **REUTERS**

News in brief

NORTH KOREA There is no sign of an easy solution to the North Korean crisis, Russia's foreign minister said on Thursday during a visit, where he is expected to urge the state not to restart its nuclear arms

plant. Sergey Lavrov, who is set to visit Seoul on Friday, flew to Pyongyang after the North also threatened to quit six-country nuclear disarmament talks in anger over UN censure for its rocket launch. **REUTERS**



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Turkey, Armenia on road to stable relations with new map

Turkey and Armenia have agreed on a road map to normalize ties after nearly a century of hostility, a move quickly welcomed by the European Union. The deal, weeks after U.S. President Barack Obama urged Turkey to resolve the issue, came on the eve of the commemoration of mass killings of Armenians by Ottoman Turks in 1915. **REUTERS**

India Injured elephant

An elephant injured by a train hit is rescued by forest officials and Indian railway authorities about 20 kilometres from the northeastern Indian city of Guwahati Thursday.

ANC leads South Africa polls

Thousands of ANC supporters celebrated with Jacob Zuma in Johannesburg on Thursday as the ruling party took a commanding lead in an election that looked set to make him president.

"This party is an elephant. You cannot actually topple an elephant," Zuma told a sea of cheering supporters clad in the party colours of yellow, green and black at ANC

headquarters in central Johannesburg.

Zuma stressed the ANC was "not yet celebrating victory," although with more than half the votes

counted, it was set for a resounding win.

The party had 67.06 per cent, according to the latest results, suggesting that despite a reinvigorated opposition, it could recapture the two-thirds majority that gives it the power to shape laws.

Zuma portrays himself as a champion of the poor, and for many voters the

"This party is an elephant. You cannot actually topple an elephant."

Jacob Zuma

ANC's credentials still outweigh its failure to tackle crime, poverty and AIDS.

The Congress of the People party, formed by ANC dissidents, had hoped to pose the first real challenge since the end of apartheid in 1994, but won 7.79 per cent of votes counted. The ANC's closest rival was the Democratic Alliance — led by a white woman — with 16.22 per cent. **REUTERS**

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News in brief

TRADE The Obama administration is committed to finishing long-running world trade talks and wants to move forward on trade deals with Panama, Colombia and South Korea, U.S. Trade Representative Ron Kirk said Thursday.

THAILAND A state of emergency in the capital city of Bangkok will be lifted on Friday, Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva said nearly two weeks after he imposed emergency rule to quell violent protests.

REUTERS

Pakistani troops attacked in region overtaken by Taliban

ISLAMABAD Unidentified gunmen attacked Pakistani paramilitary troops who deployed on Thursday to a district virtually taken over by the Taliban, a day after Washington said Islamabad had abdicated to militants in the region.

Around 100 paramilitary

troops were sent to Buner district, not far from Islamabad. Soon after they arrived, militants attacked their convoy, killing a policeman escorting them.

Violence and the spread of Taliban influence has revived concerns about Pakistan's stability. **REUTERS**

G8, poorer nations seek deal to stop loss of biodiversity

SICILY Environment ministers from major rich and developing nations put final touches on Thursday on a deal to slow the extinction of species worldwide.

Members of the G8 industrial countries and major developing economies discussed a charter aimed at a

deal to slow biodiversity loss by 2010.

Almost every country in the world in 2002 agreed to a "significant reduction" in the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010. Some experts say extinction rates are running at 1,000 times their natural pace. **REUTERS**

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How 'green' are our choices, really?



Stefanie Urbanowicz

Kermit the Frog had it right when he said, "It's not easy being green." We all want to do the right thing for the environment, but it's very confusing. We are constantly bombarded with new "green" choices — compact fluorescent light bulbs, organic food, bio-fuels and even greener packaging. But are these choices really more

environmentally friendly?

It's trickier than it seems.

Close examination shows the choices aren't clear, and what we think is green might actually be worse for the environment. For example, organic foods are perceived to offer a better environmental choice — but only if they aren't transported thousands of miles.

Fluorescent light bulbs last longer and consume less energy — but they are loaded with toxic mercury lethal to humans and the environment.

Bio-fuels may create less air pollution — but they

may divert valuable, needed land from food production, straining the world's food supply.

Even the much-promoted reusable grocery bag is a case study in how tricky green can be.

Cotton reusable bags are very fossil fuel intensive and soil depleting. According to the Pesticide Action Network of North America, 25 per cent of the world's insecticides are used in the production of cotton.

Perhaps that's why most reusable grocery bags in Canada are made from heavy plastic.

Another not-so-green aspect of reusable bags is that most are made in China and shipped across the Pacific when they could be made here in Canada.

Surprisingly, the much-vilified plastic shopping bag may be much better for the environment than people think. Why? First, it's usually made in Canada, eliminating carbon-producing long-distance transport. Second, it's made from clean natural gas produced right here in Canada.

And without plastic bags what will we do with our household garbage? Using

your 99-cent reusable bag as a bin liner isn't going to happen, so now you'll buy kitchen catchers containing almost double the amount of plastic of the traditional bags you used to get for free. This will cost you more and result in more plastic being consumed.

Also, what happens to that reusable bag when it tears or the handle breaks? Contrary to what we've been told, reusable grocery bags cannot be recycled in Canada.

Ironically, traditional plastic shopping bags are

easily recycled across Ontario in blue bin programs and at participating retailers with a real environmental ethos. These bags are recyclable, and they're remanufactured in Ontario into useful new products like drainage pipes and garden edging — creating much needed manufacturing jobs.

Even Kermit the Frog would be pleased with this green choice.

Stefanie Urbanowicz is a bio-chemical engineer with a degree from the University of Western Ontario. She is registered with the PEO and has worked in the auto parts sector for the past eight years.

Views

Are Plan It tables a turnin' for developers?

UrbanCompass

Janice Paskey



metronews.ca/paskey

I watched a Flames game in a lovely house in Kincora, an outer northwest suburb.

The basement had a pool table, foosball table, hockey table, flat screen TV, and the owner's picture at a hockey camp with Wayne Gretzky.

My kids now want to live in Kincora. They think that "man basement" is standard Kincora fare.

This type of suburb just got a boost from our mayor. He wants to rescind a planned

development levy of 12 per cent and give developers a year to pay those taxes.

Those Plan-It tables are 'a turning. Plan It is the \$6-million proposed plan to densify Calgary, restrict suburbs, and cut down on infrastructure expenses like roads, sewer lines, and the like.

City council has yet to vote on it. But before it can, there will be a city council vote Monday on the mayor's proposal to help home builders.

This is significant. It shows Dave Bronconnier is exhibiting the characteristics of his breed. He's a developer.

The home builders are represented by the Urban Development Institute, and its members are among the mayor's biggest financial supporters. When developers

hurt, he feels it. Home builders are irritated with the move to multi-residential housing, that is the core of Plan It. They say homeowners want single family homes.

Luckily for Calgary's home builders there was a precedent in Toronto — Toronto Mayor David Miller froze development levies to keep the city working. But Ontario's Places to Grow Act also says least 40 per cent of new residential construction must occur within existing built-up areas beginning in 2015.

If you say Calgary developers got special attention, I'd say you're right.

The city slams us with higher taxes (please Mr. Mayor, don't tell me others pay more; that's tired and many cities have figured out to

clean snow from pavement.) There's higher parking fees, new parking fees at LRTs, fees for recycling boxes, and monthly pick-up. There's higher user fees on golf courses and pools.

You can argue new communities pay more taxes and are worth a tax break, but we just spent millions on Plan It and smart growth ideals.

Looking at the mayor's donors to his last campaign, I'd have to say those lining up for special tax treatment will be taxi cab drivers, architects, Soccer Calgary and the folks who run the Italian Sportsmen's Dinner.

And the humble tax payer? We're still grinding.

Janice Paskey teaches journalism at Mount Royal College; calgaryletters@metronews.ca.

WHO IS ADVISING HOMELAND SECURITY'S JANET NAPOLITANO ON CANADA?



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Philip Morris smokers still lighting up

A better-than-expected profit at Marlboro-seller Philip Morris International showed most smokers are still lighting up despite the global slowdown. Cigarettes are viewed as relatively recession-resistant because of their addictive nature and the strong brand loyalty of its customers. **REUTERS**

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Business

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EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Central bank readies fixes

But unconventional measures may not be implemented

The Bank of Canada said Thursday it is unlikely to adopt any unconventional policies before June, if at all, to stimulate the slumping economy now that the bank has run out of room to cut interest rates.

At the same time, the central bank provided a framework for the use of such measures, which include an expansion of money supply through purchasing financial assets in the market, known as quantitative easing, and rescuing private-sector credit markets, which it calls credit easing.

It spoke of the "need for prudence in the use of these instruments," which have had some success in

the United States, Britain and Switzerland.

Clearly concerned about the possibility of overshooting if it did engage unconventional measures, the bank cited "considerable uncertainty with respect to the size and timing of the economy's response to these measures."

The bank provided markets with few clues on the

likelihood of ever implementing such measures, the types of securities it

uled rate announcements, the next one being June 4.

It would also announce the size of purchases it would make until the next fixed date.

It said it would only announce new policy measures in between set dates in "exceptional circumstances."

"I agree with the fact that they resisted pressure to go full on quantitative easing because that's not needed in the Canadian context," Scotia Capital economist Derek Holt said. "They're keeping their powder dry." **REUTERS**

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might target first or the size of such purchases.

It said it would announce any planned purchases at the bank's sched-

Obama pushes for credit card reforms

U.S. President Barack Obama Thursday urged U.S. credit card companies to reform their practices, saying they should stop unfair rate increases and be more transparent and accountable.

Obama has joined a push by lawmakers to rein in credit card practices that his aides have labelled as abusive and aired his concerns at a White House meeting with 13 executives from banks and companies that issue the cards.

"We want to preserve the credit card market, but we also want to do so in a way that eliminates some of the abuses and some of the problems that a lot of people are familiar with," Obama said.

The meeting came a day

"We want to preserve the credit card market, but we also want to do so in a way that eliminates some of the abuses."

Barack Obama

after a House bill to curb credit card fees and limit penalties cleared a key panel.

The legislation would stop credit card issuers from imposing arbitrary interest rate increases and penalties, while halting certain billing practices. A separate version of the bill is under review in the Senate. **REUTERS**

New York Promoting microfinance



A woman mixes a drink at a recent Granmeen America open house at St. John's University in New York. Originally begun in Bangladesh, the non-profit microfinance organization has 600 borrowers in Queens, all women, with average loans of \$2,200 US with a repayment rate of 99.6 per cent.

In brief

TRANSPORTATION California-based Zero Motorcycles visited Toronto yesterday to launch its Zero S battery-powered motorcycle into the Canadian market, giving urban commuters another way of going electric. The Zero S has an aircraft-grade alloy frame and weighs a scant 102 kilograms. It can drive up to 97 kilometres on a single charge and is capable of reaching 100 kilometres per hour on a lithium-ion battery pack. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Zenn shares up on battery data

AUTO Zenn Motor Co. Inc. shares shot nearly 70 per cent higher Thursday morning to peak at \$5.79 after a partner of the electric car maker announced positive performance data on a ground-breaking battery it is developing.

Zenn, which makes low-speed, short-range electric cars, sees much of its future hinging on an ultracapacitor being developed by Texas-based EESor Inc.

That energy storage system has the potential to charge faster and be a fraction of the cost and size of traditional chemical batteries.

EESor announced third-party testing results on Wednesday of the energy and power density of key material in its technology. The results exceeded expectations, Zenn said Thursday.

REUTERS

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12 business

Apple profit beats expectations

Apple Inc.'s quarterly profit soared past Wall Street expectations on strong sales of iPhones and iPods. **REUTERS**

Oil premium shrinking

Asia paying less for Middle Eastern crude

For decades, Middle East oil producers have had their Asian customers over a barrel: With few alternatives to Gulf crude and little bargaining power, they paid up to \$6 US more for their oil than U.S. or European refiners.

But the rapid expansion of Chinese and Indian demand, growing Gulf investment in Asian refineries and a concerted effort to wield more pricing clout have gradually ground down the so-called "Asian premium," long a topic of consumer nation angst.

Now, with Asia expected to lead the world out of recession, and new non-OPEC crude supplies heading into the region from Kazakhstan, Brazil and Su-

"(The Middle East) will have to choose between defending their market share or defending the price of their crude."

Al Troner, Asia Pacific Energy Consulting

dan, the balance of oil pricing power will shift even further East. That may not eliminate the premium altogether, but analysts say it is unlikely to expand again soon.

"Will the Middle East countries continue to have the lion's share (of exports) in the region? Yes," said Al

Troner, managing director of Asia Pacific Energy Consulting.

"But as additional pressure is applied by new pipelines (to China) and additional volumes from South America, they will have to choose between defending their market share or defending the price of their crude," he added.

Rarely officially discussed or acknowledged, the Asian oil premium has dwindled to an average of less than \$1 per barrel over the past two years.

The premium is determined in large part by the official selling prices (OSPs) set by Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq and Kuwait.

REUTERS

CFO sought time off before death

WALL STREET The Freddie Mac executive who apparently committed suicide had asked to take time off from work to deal with job-related stress, a person familiar with the matter told Reuters Thursday.

David Kellermann, the mortgage giant's acting chief financial officer, told company officials that he felt overworked and overwhelmed and was granted time off on Tuesday, the day before he was found dead in his home in Washington's Virginia suburbs, the source said.

REUTERS

Peru The Potato Train



"The Potato Train" arrives at a station in Lima, Peru, Thursday. More than 50 tons of potatoes produced in the highlands arrived in Lima on the train.

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Canadian Pacific profit falls

Canadian Pacific Railway reported a 31 per cent decline in first-quarter profit on Thursday. **REUTERS**

business 13

Canada may offer \$6B to automakers

Government mulls debtor-in-possession financing

Canada is considering providing debtor-in-possession financing to Chrysler and General Motors Corp. if the companies end up having to file for bankruptcy protection, Industry Minister Tony Clement said Thursday.

"It's pretty clear the banks are not going to be the financiers (for debtor-in-possession financing)," he told reporters.

"So ... the suggestions to both the United States government and the Canadian government — and the Ontario government as well — is we would be the DIP financiers in those cases. So that is a bridge we have not crossed yet, but obviously we are looking at all the permutations."

Canada and Ontario were in advanced negotiations to provide the com-

panies with up to \$6 billion US to help them emerge from bankruptcy protection if need be, the Globe and Mail newspaper reported.

The talks included the U.S. Treasury and senior auto executives and would see Canada contribute about 15 per cent of total funding that could reach \$40 billion, the paper said.

REUTERS

Toronto Seeking pension protections



Thousands of autoworkers, labour activists and union members gather outside the Ontario legislature at Queen's Park to advocate pension protections from government and corporations before Canadian Auto Workers union President Ken Lewenza spoke in Toronto Thursday.

COSCO seeks to cut, delay orders

SHIPPING China COSCO, the world's largest dry bulk shipper, posted a bigger-than-expected second-half loss and said it was in talks to delay or cancel some new ship orders to help weather the market downturn.

The country's largest shipping group forecast a substantial drop in international trade this year as the global economy contracts and squeezes China's export environment.

"Considering the market conditions, the group is negotiating with shipowners

Shares

• Shares of China COSCO eased 1.1 per cent to \$6.27 HK on Thursday after its earnings announcement and have lost more than 12 per cent since Monday on concerns about weak shipping demand.

to postpone delivery of three 8,495 TEUs vessels to 2010," COSCO said in a statement.

China COSCO is also in talks with shipyards to de-

lay delivery or cancel some new dry bulk vessel orders.

China COSCO posted a net loss of 3.5-billion yuan in the second half as freight rates collapsed in the fourth quarter, leaving the firm with hefty hedging losses.

The net loss, calculated from previously reported earnings, compared with a 12.25-billion yuan profit in July-December 2007, and was well short of an average forecast for a 1.08-billion yuan profit from eight analysts polled by Reuters.

REUTERS

Business in brief

GOLD The first-quarter production costs of gold miners should be surprisingly low due to cheap oil prices and the strength of the U.S. dollar, RBC Capital Markets said Thursday.

TECH IBM Corp. plans to launch cloud computing services this year, taking on companies such as Amazon.com Inc., Microsoft Corp. and Google Inc. Cloud computing systems

run software and store information in remote, large-scale data centres that users and programmers access over the Internet.

REUTERS

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Nicklas Lidstrom of the Detroit Red Wings, Mike Green of the Washington Capitals and Zdeno Chara of the Boston Bruins are the finalists for the Norris Trophy as the NHL's top defenceman, the league announced Thursday. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

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Sports

EDITOR: JOHN.CHICK@METRONews.CA

Roy suspended for Game 5

FLAMES The NHL on Thursday suspended Calgary Flames forward Andre Roy one game and fined him \$2,500 for an incident prior to Wednesday's Game 4.

In the pre-game warmups before Calgary's 6-4 win over Chicago, Roy initiated contact with Blackhawks defenceman Aaron Johnson, who was a healthy scratch for the game. The suspension will be served on the next game on Saturday in Chicago. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

For complete recaps of all of Thursday's playoff action, visit metronews.ca



Red Wings move on

STANLEY CUP

2009 Playoffs

Johan Franzen scored the game-winning power-play goal with 46.6 seconds left in the third period, and the defending Stanley Cup champion Detroit Red Wings held on to complete a four-game sweep of the Columbus Blue Jackets with a 6-5 win in Game 4 of the Western Conference quarter-final series at Nationwide Arena.

Devils 1 Hurricanes 0

Martin Brodeur made 44 saves to post his 23rd career post-season shutout to lead the New Jersey Devils to a 1-0 victory over the Carolina



Columbus' Rick Nash collides with the Wings' Valtteri Filppula.

Hurricanes in Game 5 of their Eastern Conference quarter-final series at Prudential Center. Brodeur, who earlier this year became the all-time regular season shutouts leader, is now tied with Patrick Roy atop the all-time post-season whitewash list.

Flyers 3 Penguins 0

Martin Biron stopped all 28 shots he faced as the Philadelphia Flyers staved off elimination with a 3-0 decision over the Pittsburgh Penguins in Game 5 of their Eastern Conference quarter-final from Mellon Arena.

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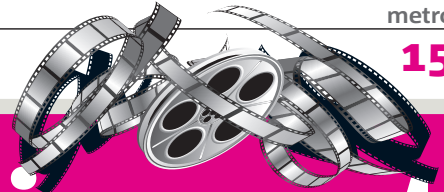


Weekend, April 24-26, 2009

metronews.ca

metro

Visit metronews.ca/movies to get showtimes, watch trailers and read reviews.



Movies & Entertainment

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Movies

Ghost stories

Pg 16



Jennifer Garner, the star of new romantic comedy *Ghosts of Girlfriends Past*, discusses nuptials, family and her unexpected work.

movies

Pg 20



Robert Downey Jr. steals the spotlight in *The Soloist*

music

Pg 22



New Peter Bjorn and John album shows off darker side

7th heaven

Pg 26



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16 movies & entertainment

Movies

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR



Jennifer Garner stars opposite Matthew McConaughey in *Ghosts of Girlfriends Past*.

Garner turns on the laughs

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News



In Jennifer Garner's latest film, *Ghosts of Girlfriends Past*, she plays maid of honour for a wedding imperiled by her caddish ex, played by Matthew McConaughey. But to hear Garner tell it, she's often the one more likely to wreak havoc on someone else's nuptials.

"I'm usually part of the disaster of a wedding if I'm a bridesmaid, which I've been lucky to be several times," Garner says, smiling sheepishly. "One time I had had my dress altered and hadn't tried it on again, and there was six inches left on the hem," she remembers.

"We had to duct tape it up. You can fix anything with duct tape."

Garner's own wedding to Ben Affleck wasn't so fraught, and the two have become an anomaly in Hollywood: A normal, happy family.

"The rule with marriage is the less you talk about it, the better, as far as I can tell," Garner jokes.

Garner and Affleck recently welcomed their second daughter, Seraphina. Juggling young motherhood and working isn't easy, but Garner counts herself lucky to have the kind of job she does.

"I work really intensely, but in a place where if I need to take a break

Movie feature

and feed a baby, they let me, which isn't always the case for women in the corporate world," Garner explains.

But forget being a working mother — Garner is surprised she's working in film at all. "I never expected to be in front of a camera, even when I was studying acting," she says. "I wouldn't even go into the film school at my school. I was only about the stage. I was a total snob."

Luckily she abandoned that snobishness, and went on to find success in television and film, including her breakthrough roles in the TV series *Alias* and in the film *13 Going on 30*, another romantic comedy.

And Garner will continue in comedy for the time being, appearing soon in Ricky Gervais' *The Invention of Lying*, about a world where everyone tells the truth. But working with laugh-happy Gervais proved tricky.

"The worst thing about Ricky as a director is that if something is funny at all, he breaks and laughs and ruins your take," Garner says. "I would say, 'It's your movie. Just go in another room and let me just do it.'"

Surely nothing a little duct tape can't fix, though.

• *Ghosts of Girlfriends Past* opens in theatres next Friday.



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Weekend, April 24-26, 2009

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At a glance

The Soloist ●●●●½;

Fighting ●●●

17

Movies

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR



X-Men Origins: Wolverine opens the summer blockbuster parade on May 1.

Here come the blockbusters

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada



It's hard to believe, but in one week the month of May will be upon us and with it the onset of the summer blockbuster season.

Sure, 2009 has already made some surprising splashes at the box office (I'm looking at you, Paul Blart: Mall Cop), but with such highly-anticipated releases as Terminator Salvation (May 22), the sixth Harry Potter film (July 15) and G.I. Joe: The Rise of Cobra (August 7), summer should ensure some of the year's biggest monemakers.

Here's a peek at a few of summer's exciting highlights:

X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE (MAY 1)

Like last year's Iron Man, summer kicks off with a hotly-anticipated comic-book movie. Everyone's favorite mutant, Wolverine, brings Hugh Jackman back into the role that made him a Hollywood star.

STAR TREK (MAY 8)

If you don't know about J.J. Abrams' overhyped reimagining of this sci-fi franchise, then you've been living on the planet Gamma Hydra IV (and if you got that reference, you definitely knew about this remake). This should be one of the biggest hits of 2009.

UP (MAY 29)

Like Wall-E and every other Pixar animated flick before it, this clever comedy about an old man who converts his house into a hot-air balloon will surely send ticket sales skyward.

LAND OF THE LOST (JUNE 5)

An adaptation of the cheesy 1970s Saturday morning TV series, a scientist is sucked through a vortex back to prehistoric times. With Will Ferrell in charge, somehow I suspect it'll be tongue-in-cheek.



A scene from Terminator Salvation.

TRANSFORMERS: REVENGE OF THE FALLEN (JUNE 26)

Shia LaBeouf, Megan Fox and those crazy morphing robots are back in this thrilling sequel. Since the 2007 original earned over \$300 million in ticket sales, I'd say this is a safe bet at the box office.

PUBLIC ENEMIES (JULY 1)

Want a guaranteed big-screen hit? Take Johnny Depp, add director Michael Mann (Collateral) and get them together for a movie about legendary bank robber John Dillinger. There you go. Instant hit.

BRÜNO (JULY 10)

Sacha Baron Cohen's hit character Borat comes back in the form of Brüno, a flamboyant designer who taunts everything from high-end fashion designers to gun-toting rednecks.

Early buzz predicts it will be just as provocative and funny as Borat. No word yet on appearances by hairy, naked fat dudes.

Summer Preview



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Weekend, April 24-26, 2009

18 movies&entertainment

Also opening
Also opening this week is Obsessed. Visit metronews.ca this Sunday, or read Monday's edition of Metro for a review of the film. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Movies

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Great fiction in the name of truth

InFocus

Richard Crouse

metronews.ca/infocus

Mark Twain understood basing stories on real events

wouldn't necessarily mean a tale couldn't have its own flights of fancy.

"Truth is stranger than fiction," he said, "but it is because fiction is obliged to stick to possibilities; truth isn't."

In simpler terms he means that just because something is far fetched doesn't mean it didn't happen. For example, if a screenwriter came up with the colourful idea that a homeless man, dressed like a superhero was a musical genius who believed

Beethoven was the "leader of Los Angeles" you'd scream "Codswallop!" That is until you see the real life account of Nathaniel Ayers, subject of The Soloist, in theatres this week.

What did Ayers, a schizophrenic man with a larger than life personality, think of Jamie Foxx's portrayal of him? He was, said Mr. Ayers, "a good Nathaniel."

Another real life character, John Wojtowicz, who robbed a bank to pay for his lover's sex change operation, earned \$7,500 for the movie rights for his outlandish story. The resulting movie, Dog Day Afternoon, only got 30 per cent of the facts right, Wojtowicz said, but he added that "Al Pacino's performance has to be called 'out of sight...'" his characterization was flawless."

Of course some movies don't even get 30 per cent of the story right.

Who could forget Morgan Freeman as Joe Clark, Lean on Me's tyrannical

"If an audience believes that something's based on a real event, it gives you permission to do things they might otherwise not accept."

Joel Coen

high school principal? On screen armed with a bullhorn and determination he led the rowdy students of New Jersey's Eastside High School to their highest test scores ever. It was an inspirational movie, but the real life story isn't quite as stirring. Screenwriters kept the extraordinary aspects of Clark's story — his use of bullhorns in class and penchant for extreme discipline — but inflated his accomplishments. Despite his notable efforts, test scores didn't go up.

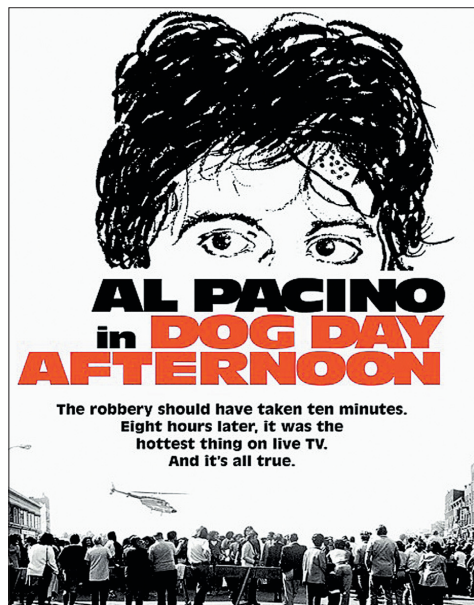
When asked about the

exaggerations in the "based on a true story" account of his life Clark said, "It's entertainment. And the design of entertainment is to make people happy. There's enough sadness in one's life. Once in a while you must extract a reasonable facsimile of glee, as factitious as it may be."

Sometimes, in the "design of entertainment" the words "Based on a True Story" are completely meaningless. In its opening credits Fargo claimed to be a true story, but it's actually not. Why make claims to realism then? "If an audience believes that something's based on a real event," said co-director Joel Coen, "it gives you permission to do things they might otherwise not accept."

Mark Twain would have understood.

Richard Crouse's Movie Show can be seen every Sunday at 6:30 p.m. on the E! Channel, mrrchaos33@hotmail.com.



Dog Day Afternoon was based on the life of John Wojtowicz, who robbed a bank to pay for his lover's sex change operation.

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Movies

★★★★★ A CLASSIC; ★★★★★ EXCELLENT; ★★★ GOOD; ★★ FAIR; ★ POOR

Fighting no knockout

Fighting

Director: Dito Montiel

Stars: Channing Tatum, Terence Howard

Classification: 14A

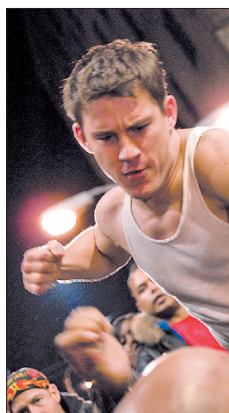
Rating: ★★

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada



You wouldn't assume from its title that *Fighting* has surprisingly little conflict. I'm not talking about drag-down, split-lip knuckledusters. Oh, there's plenty of that. But in-between those striking sequences, *Fighting* is flat-out stagnant.

Directed by punk musician-turned-filmmaker Dito Montiel, *Fighting* tells the story of street-wise Shawn (Channing Tatum), a money-hungry hustler (with a seeming inability to form facial expressions) who discovers the world of underground fist-fighting through a con man named Harvey (Terence Howard).



Channing Tatum plays a street-wise hustler in *Fighting*.

Of course, here's where the clichés start adding up: Shawn (inspired by Rocky Balboa perhaps?) charms a single working mom with his dull-headed honesty while the film builds to an obvious championship battle against his nemesis — a former team member

from his wrestling days back in Alabama.

It seems Shawn may be the jealous type.

Which brings me to *Fighting*'s main flaw — motive or lack thereof. While Montiel surely has a knack for capturing some compelling combat on film, *Fighting* doesn't give us enough backstory or a reason to understand why or how Shawn has gotten to this lot in life.

However, where Montiel lacks in establishing purpose, he does counteract with a slightly engaging homage to gritty pre-Giuliani Manhattan. Accompanied by a cool '70s-era soundtrack, the film feels dirty and the characters call back to an earlier New York.

When one annoying street-lady rambles on about Manhattan's new developments in Harvey's presence, he simply says, "move on, lady."

Unfortunately for Montiel, so will movie audiences.

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— Thelma Adams, US WEEKLY

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— Mike Sargent, WBAI RADIO

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— Stuart Lee, WNYX-TV

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— Jeanne Wolf, PARADE.COM

"McConaughey and Garner have perfect chemistry."

— Gerrad Hall, REELZCHANNEL



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McCONAUGHEY

JENNIFER
GARNER

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Weekend, April 24-26, 2009

20 movies & entertainment

Movies

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Foxx jarring note in moving Soloist

The Soloist

Director: Joe Wright

Stars: Robert Downey Jr., Jamie Foxx

Classification: PG

Rating: ●●●●½

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News



Between its infamous rescheduling out of Oscar season last year and star Robert Downey Jr.'s hilarious diatribe in *Tropic Thunder* about the perils of playing mentally ill on film, it's hard to watch *The Soloist* without that little golden guy tapping on your shoulder.

Sure, Jamie Foxx makes a good schizophrenic homeless Juilliard dropout, but an Oscar-worthy one?

While Foxx's job as Nathaniel Ayers checks off all the boxes for a stirring portrayal of mental illness, there's little spark to it. Too much of the effort shows, leaving not so much a character onscreen as Jamie Foxx playing a character. He doesn't disappear into the role so much as show it off.

But Downey quietly steals the movie out from under his co-star. His Steve Lopez is a fantastic mix of world-weary cynicism and innate curiosity, trying to remain calm as the newspaper he works for — and the industry itself — crum-



Jamie Foxx, left, and Robert Downey Jr. star in *The Soloist*, which is based on the true story of a Juilliard-trained mentally ill musician.

On the web

- For movie screen times and film trailers and pictures, or to buy tickets, visit metronews.ca/movies.

bles around him.

Unfortunately, he also suffers the moments meant to play for laughs, which come off as forced and out of place.

And the repeated "comic" scenarios that culminate with Downey covered in urine suggest almost a fetish on the part of the filmmakers.

But who knows? It's based on a true story, so maybe Steve Lopez really is that unlucky around urine.

The one aspect of the

film that may split audiences is the inclusion of actual Skid Row residents and mentally ill shelter-dwellers, playing themselves, making some scenes come off impressively like a documentary.

While putting a real, human face on the issue is laudable and eye-opening, watching Hollywood star Jamie Foxx in full homeless drag sitting among actual homeless people is more than a little jarring and gives the film the unfortunate aftertaste of stunt casting.

But for all its faults, *The Soloist* is a quietly powerful movie, with a satisfying if subdued conclusion.

• Visit metronews.ca for a trailer of *The Soloist*, or for local screen times.

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Peter Travers, *Rolling Stone*

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NOW PLAYING

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Empire

Landmark

Independent

21

This week's new releases are highlighted in pink.

Screen Times

THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., APRIL 24 TO THURS., APRIL 30. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. COMPLETE LISTINGS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT METRONEWS.CA/MOVIES.

CANYON MEADOWS

Bay 110 13226 Macleod Trail,
403-670-5444

Bedtime Stories (G) Fri-Thu 12:55-6:50
Bride Wars (PG) Fri-Thu 1:20-4:10-7:15-9:25
Confessions of a Shopaholic (PG) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:40-7:10-9:40
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) Fri-Thu 3:35-7:45
Doubt (PG) Fri-Thu 1:10
Forever Strong (PG) Fri-Thu 3:55-7:25
Gran Torino (14A) Fri-Thu 1:15-4:15-7:05-9:35
He's Just Not That Into You (PG) Fri-Thu 12:50-3:50-7:45
Hotel for Dogs (G) Fri-Thu 1:10-4:7-20
The Last House on the Left (18A) Fri-Thu 9:45
Paul Blart: Mall Cop (PG) Fri-Thu 1:34-5:6:55-9:30
Slumdog Millionaire (14A) Fri-Thu 1:05-4:05-7:15-9:50
Watchmen (18A) Fri-Thu 3:30-9:15
The Wrestler (14A) Fri-Thu 1:05-9:55

CROWFOOT CROSSING

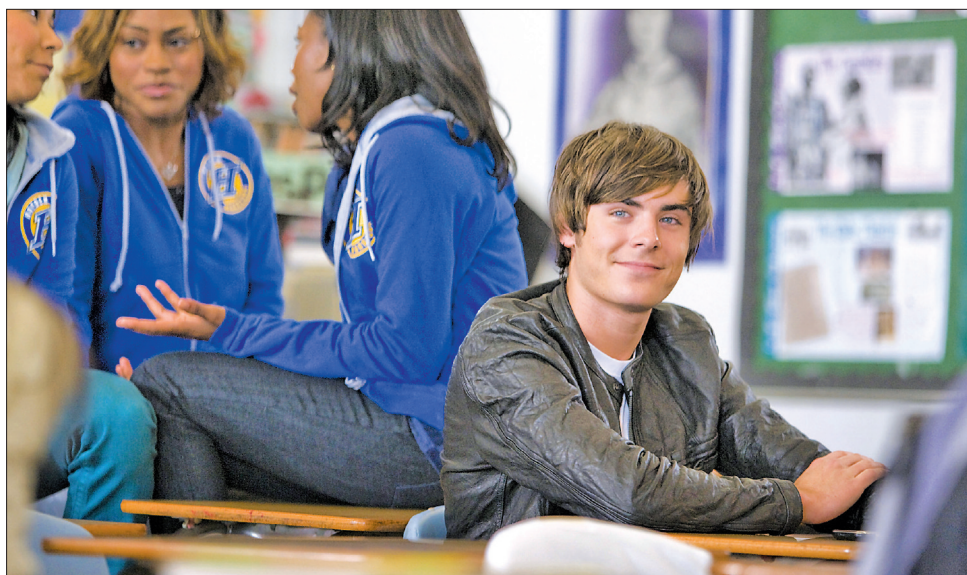
91 Crowfoot Terrace, 403-547-3316

17 Again (PG) Fri-Tue 12:15-1:25-5:30-4:05-15:6:30-7:45-9:30-10:15 Wed 12:15-2:50-3:40-5:15-6:30-7:45-9:30-10:15 Thu 12:15-1:25-5:30-4:05-15:6:30-7:45-9:30-10:15 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Crank: High Voltage (18A) Fri-Thu 1:10-4:40-7:50-10:30
Earth (PG) Fri-Thu 12:30-2:45-5:7-30-10
Fast & Furious (14A) Fri-Thu 1:20-4-7:15-9:50
Fighting (14A) No Passes Fri 12:20-3-7:10-9:45 Sat-Thu 12:20-3-7:10-9:45
Hannah Montana: The Movie (G) Fri-Thu 12:25-3:30-6:50-9:45
I Love You, Man (14A) Fri 1:10-4:10-7:40-10:10 Sat 4:10-7:40-10:10 Sun-Thu 1:10-4:10-7:40-10:10
Metropolitan Opera: La Sonnambula Encore (STC) Sat 11
Monsters vs. Aliens (G) Fri-Thu 12:50-3:15
Monsters vs. Aliens 3D (G) Fri-Thu 12:30-5:10-7:25-9:55
Observe and Report (18A) Fri-Thu 7:45-10:25
Obsessed (14A) Fri-Tue 1:30-4:30-7:35-10:05 Wed 4:30-7:35-10:05 Thu 1:30-4:30-7:35-10:05 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
State of Play (14A) Fri-Thu 12:40-4:20-7:20-10:20

EAU CLAIRE MARKET

200 Barlay Parade, 403-263-1166

Crank: High Voltage (18A) Fri 6:40-9:40 Sat-Sun 12:40-3:40-6:40-9:40 Mon-Thu 6:40-9:40
Duplicity (PG) Fri 6:30-9:30 Sat 3:6-30-9:30 Sun 12:3-6:30-9:30 Mon-Thu 6:30-9:30
Fast & Furious (14A) Fri 7:10 Sat-Sun 12:30-7:10 Mon-Thu 7:10
Fighting (14A) No Passes Fri 7:35-10:15 Sat-Sun 12:20-3:25-7:35-10:15 Mon-Thu 7:35-10:15
Metropolitan Opera: La Sonnambula Encore (STC) Sat 11
Observe and Report (18A) Fri 10 Sat-Sun 3:55-10 Mon-Thu 10
State of Play (14A) Fri 6:55-9:50 Sat-Sun 12:10-3:10-6:55-9:50 Mon-Thu 6:55-



Zac Efron stars in 17 Again, which is currently in theatres.

9:50
Sunshine Cleaning (14A) Fri 7:25-10:05 Sat-Sun 12:45-4:05-7:25-10:05 Mon-Thu 7:25-10:05

EMPIRE STUDIO 16

388 Country Hills Blvd., 403-686-8491

17 Again (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri-Wed 12:50-1:20-3:35-4:10-6:50-7:20-9:20-9:50 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Thu 12:50-1:20-3:35-4:10-6:50-7:20-9:20-9:50
Adventureland (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sat 7:05-9:45 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Sun 9:45 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 7:05-9:45
Crank: High Voltage (18A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:40-4:05-7:45-10:15
Dragonball: Evolution (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:10-3:30
Duplicity (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 6:30-9:25
Earth (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri-Thu 12:55-3:55-6:45-9:10
Fast & Furious (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:45-3:25-7:35-10:10
Fighting (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:50-4:30-7:30-10:05
Hannah Montana: The Movie (G) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:15-1:30-3:05-4:40-7:9-25
I Love You, Man (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:10-3:50-7:25-9:55
Monsters vs. Aliens (G) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Thu 12-2:30
Monsters vs. Aliens 3D (G) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:30-3:40-6:40-9:15
Observe and Report (18A) SR Dolby

Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 7:40-10:15
Obsessed (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:25-3:20-6:55-9:40
The Soloist (PG) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Thu 1:15-3:45-7:15-10
State of Play (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:30-4:20-7:15-10:05
WWE: Backlash 2009 (STC) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Sun 5
X-Men Origins: Wolverine (STC) No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 12

EMPIRE STUDIO 10

100-16061 Macleod Trail, 403-974-0470

17 Again (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:20-4:10-6:50-9:40
Crank: High Voltage (18A) DTS Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 3:15-10
Earth (PG) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 11:45-2:15-4:45-7:10-9:30
Fast & Furious (14A) DTS Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 2:45-7:15-9:55 DTS Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 4:35-7:15-9:55 DTS Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 2:45-7:15-9:55
Fighting (14A) DTS Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:50-4:30-7:40-10:15
Hannah Montana: The Movie (G) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:40-4:20-7:20
I Love You, Man (14A) DTS Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:20-7:25
Monsters vs. Aliens 3D (G) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:30-4:30-7:40-10:15
Obsessed (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:30-4:15-7:30-10:05
Opus Arte: Castor & Pollux (Opera) (STC) Digital Presentation, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Sat 1
The Soloist (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:40-3:45-7:20-

10:10
State of Play (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:30-6:40-9:50

GLOBE CINEMA

617-8 Avenue, 403-262-3308

Hunger (18A) Fri 7:9-15 Sat-Sun 1:45-3:45-7:9-15 Mon-Thu 7:9-15
Letters From Lilein (STC) Fri 6:50-9:20 Sat-Sun 1:30-3:20-6:50-9:20 Mon-Thu 6:50-9:20
Royal Opera: Castor & Pollux (STC) Sat-Sun 11

MOVIEDOME

1039 999 36 St., 403-248-2000

Confessions of a Shopaholic (PG) Fri-Thu 1:35-5:7-9:50
Coraline (PG) Fri-Thu 1:05-3:45-6:40-6:50-9:40
He's Just Not That Into You (PG) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:35-6:45-9:35
Hotel for Dogs (G) Fri-Thu 12:55-3:50-7:05-10
The Last House on the Left (18A) Fri-Thu 9:50
Paul Blart: Mall Cop (PG) Fri-Thu 1:10-4:10-10:05
Push (14A) Fri-Thu 12:55-3:45-6:55-9:55
Slumdog Millionaire (14A) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:35-6:45-9:45
Watchmen (18A) Fri-Thu 1:30-7:30

SCOTIABANK CHINOOK

6455 Macleod Trail, 403-212-8994

17 Again (PG) Fri-Thu 1:40-5:55-9:45 Fri-Thu 12:05-2:35-5:10-7:45-10:15
Adventureland (14A) Fri-Wed 1:10-4:20-7:15-10:10 Thu 1:10-4:20-10:10
Crank: High Voltage (18A) Fri-Thu 1:20-4:25-7:30-10:20
Dragonball: Evolution (PG) Fri-Thu 1:05

Duplicity (PG) Fri-Thu 6:50-9:50
Earth (PG) Fri-Thu 12:20-4:40-7:10-9:40
Fast & Furious (14A) Fri-Thu 12:30-3:30-7:10
Fighting (14A) No Passes Fri 1:10-4:10-7:15-10:25 Sat-Thu 1:10-4:10-7:15-10:25
Hannah Montana: The Movie (G) Fri-Thu 12-2:20-5:7-25-10:05
The Haunting in Connecticut (14A) Fri-Thu 4-7:15-10:25
I Love You, Man (14A) Fri-Wed 1-4:05-7:05-10:05 Thu 4:05-7:05-10:05 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
Knowing (14A) Fri 1:15-4:15-7:20-10:15 Sat 4:15-7:20-10:15 Sun-Thu 1:15-4:15-7:20-10:15
Metropolitan Opera: La Sonnambula Encore (STC) Sat 11
Monsters vs. Aliens (G) Fri-Thu 1:15-4-7:10-10:10
Monsters vs. Aliens 3D (G) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:50-8:10-10:30
Monsters vs. Aliens: An IMAX 3D Experience (G) Fri-Thu 12-2:15-4:30-7:30
Observe and Report (18A) Fri-Sat 1:15-4:15-7:25-10:30 Sun 1:15-4:15-10:30 Mon-Thu 1:15-4:15-7:25-10:30
Obsessed (14A) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:45-7:20-10:20 Thu 3:45-7:20-10:20 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
State of Play (14A) Fri-Thu 12:50-3:50-7:10-10:10
WWE: Backlash (STC) Sun 6

PLAZA THEATRE

1133 Kensington Rd., 403-283-3636

Best of Vancouver International Mountain Film Festival (STC) Sat 6:30
Gattaca (STC) Thu 7
Korean Film Festival (STC) Fri 7-9:30 Sat-Sun 1:30-3:30 Mon 7-9:30
The Night of the Hunter (STC) Sat

9:30 Sun 12
Waltz With Bashir (R) Fri 4:40 Sat 12 Sun 9:30 Tue-Thu 9:30

SUNRIDGE SPECTRUM

2555 32nd Street, 403-717-1200

17 Again (PG) Fri-Tue 12:05-1:25-5:35-4:05-15:6:35-7:40-9:10-10:20 Wed 12:05-2:35-3:45-5:05-6:35-7:40-9:10-10:20 Thu 12:05-1:25-5:35-4:05-6:35-7:40-9:10-10:20 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Crank: High Voltage (18A) Fri-Thu 12:50-3:20-6:50-9:20
Earth (PG) Fri-Thu 12-2:25-4:45-7:15-9:50
Fast & Furious (14A) Fri-Thu 12:35-3:10-6:45-9:25
Fighting (14A) No Passes Fri 12:10-2:55-7:25-10:10 Sat-Thu 12:10-2:55-7:25-10:10
Hannah Montana: The Movie (G) Fri-Thu 11:45-2:20-5:7-35-10:15
The Haunting in Connecticut (14A) Fri-Thu 12:15-6:55
I Love You, Man (14A) Fri-Sat 12:30-3:35-7:10-9:55 Sun 12:30-3:15-9:55 Mon-Thu 12:30-3:35-7:10-9:55
Knowing (14A) Fri-Thu 2:50-9:30
Mini Punjab (Punjabi w/e.s.t.) (STC) Fri-Thu 12:20-3:30-6:40-10
Monsters vs. Aliens 3D (G) Fri-Thu 11:55-2:30-4:55-7:20-9:45
Obsessed (14A) Fri-Tue 12:55-3:50-7:40 Wed 3:50-7:40 Thu 12:55-3:50-7:40 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
State of Play (14A) Fri-Thu 12:40-3:40-7:05-10:05
Tera Mera Ki Rishta (Punjabi w/e.s.t.) (PG) Fri-Thu 12:35-5:45
WWE: Backlash (STC) Sun 6
X-Men Origins: Wolverine (STC) No Passes Thu 12

THE UPTOWN STAGE & SCREEN

612 8th Ave., 403-265-0120

Adventureland (14A) Sat 12:10
Gomorrah (14A) Fri 6:40-9:15 Sat-Sun 1:45-5:40-9:15 Mon-Thu 6:40-9:15
The Green Chain (STC) Fri 4:50 Sat-Sun 12-4:50 Mon-Thu 4:50
Orgasmic Birth (STC) Sun 11
The Soloist (PG) Fri 4:30-7:20 Sat-Sun 2:15-4:30-7:20 Mon-Thu 4:30-7:20
Toons For Toddlers (STC) Sat 10:30

WESTHILLS 10

165 Stewart Green, 403-246-5291

17 Again (PG) Fri-Sun 12:35-3:10-7:30-9:30 Mon-Thu 5:55-8:30
Crank: High Voltage (18A) Fri-Sun 1:40-4:30-7:30-9:50 Mon-Thu 5:20-7:45
Fast & Furious (14A) Fri-Sun 12:50-3:30-7:45-10:20 Mon-Thu 6:10-8:40
Fighting (14A) No Passes Fri 12:40-3:35-7:35-10:15 Sat-Sun 12:40-3:35-7:35-10:15 Mon-Thu 6:15-9
Hannah Montana: The Movie (G) Fri-Sun 1:30-4:25-7:10-9:40 Mon-Thu 5:20-7:40
I Love You, Man (14A) Fri-Sun 1:20-4:10-7:25-9:55 Mon-Thu 5:30-8
Monsters vs. Aliens (G) Fri-Sun 12:55-3:20-6:45-9:10 Mon-Thu 6:05-8:20
Obsessed (14A) Fri-Sun 1:15-4:15-7:05-10 Mon-Thu 5:25-7:55
State of Play (14A) Fri-Sun 12:45-3:45-7:15-10:10 Mon-Thu 6:8-50
Sunshine Cleaning (14A) Fri-Sun 1:50-4:05-6:50-9:20

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Music

Metro recommends

• WE ARE THE SAME, THE TRAGICALLY HIP: Lush string

arrangements and guest musicians help the Hip deliver a more expansive, country sound.



• VICTORIA DAY, MELISSA MCCLELLAND: McClelland's classic voice perfectly suits

her album's fusion of twangy blues, '50s pop and tender balladry.



• A POSITIVE RAGE, THE HOLD STEADY: Indie rockers' live

recording showcases Springsteen's influence on brawny guitar tunes.



METRO NEWS SERVICES

Read the latest music stories at: metronews.ca/music

The cure for Writer's Block

Sweden's Peter Bjorn and John reinvent sound after breakout success

BRYAN BORZYKOWSKI
for Metro Canada

After reading Peter Bjorn and John's press release for their new album *Living Thing*, you can't help but feel the guys are a bit frustrated that *Young Folks*, their hit single with the infectious whistle off 2006's *Writer's Block*, got as popular as it did.

"What a lot of people don't seem to understand is that we're celebrating our 10th anniversary as a band this year, they think this will be our second album when in reality it's actually our fifth," said lead singer Peter Moren in the release.

When I spoke with him a few weeks before the band's new disc hit shelves, he made it known that while he was appreciative of what that song has done for his career, *Young Folks*' popularity was a mixed blessing.



Living Thing, the fifth album by Sweden's Peter Bjorn and John, is now available in stores.

"It was 99 per cent helpful," he says on the phone from the group's home base, Stockholm, Sweden. "But because it was tied into one song like that, we had to make an instrumental album (2008's *Seaside Rock*). It was therapeutic for us to get into the studio without expectations."

But, while it's true that *Seaside Rock* is technically the follow-up to *Writer's Block*, it's *Living Thing* that people will compare to their hit record. If fans are looking for an album full of sunny, *Young Folks*-like pop, they're going to be disappointed, mostly because that one song isn't what Pe-

ter Bjorn and John are about. The band has always had a dark streak, and it's out in full force here — the trio set their musical focus on spooky percussion and minimalist guitars and bass; in fact, the whole disc consists mostly of just vocals, drums and electro sounds.

However, every song still has the same infectious melodies that made *Young Folks* a hit, it'll just take fans of that song a while to warm up to these somewhat less accessible tracks. But, if their fans bothered to listen to more than just *Writer's Block*, they'd understand that *Living Thing* isn't actually that different from their previous work. "The album before *Writer's Block* was a bit more angry and sad," says Moren. "It just felt natural to do something in that vein again."

Moren points out that they didn't push their darker side because of *Writer's Block*'s popularity. "Even if we wouldn't have had that success, we still would have sounded like this now," he says, adding that they've always tried to reinvent their sounds. "The soft songs and melancholy beats are similar, but you need to frame it in a different way."

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Billboard's top albums

1. Hannah Montana (Miley Cyrus, right); 2. Forever in a Day, DAY26; 3. Unstoppable, Rascal Flatts; 4. Twilight Soundtrack, Various Artist; 5. NOW 30, Various Artists. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Music

Money key to reunions

SoundCheck

Alan Cross

metronews.ca/soundcheck

As you read this, they're just finishing cleaning up after several hundred thousand people who temporarily quintupled the population of Indio, Calif., a small desert city about 180 kilometres east of Los Angeles, for the annual Coachella Music and Arts Festival.

Coachella has become THE place for big-name reunions. In years past, organizers have somehow managed to convince the fractious Rage Against the Machine, the infighting Crowded House and the squabbling Jesus and Mary Chain to put differences aside for the sake of music, art and money. Gobs and

"With almost everyone in the reunion business again this year, who's there left to convince to put all the bad blood aside for a chance to top up the pension plan?"

gobs of money.

This year, though, gasp-worthy reunions didn't materialize. My Bloody Valentine is on the bill, but they've been playing gigs for a year now. Old news. Instead, we saw sets by Paul McCartney and Leonard Cohen.

With almost everyone in the reunion business again this year, who's there left to convince to put all the bad blood aside for a chance to top up the pension plan?

Blur would have been a good get for Coachella, but they're not about to screw up the hysteria that's building toward a series of high-profile appearances that have already been announced for the U.K. this summer. Blink-182? Too busy rehearsing for a summer comeback tour with their friends in Weezer.

Seeing the original Specials would have been cool, but arguments with founder Jerry Dammers ("Are you in, mate? Or are you out?") delayed that train. Maybe next year.

So what about next year? A Scottish paper started a rumour that the Stone Roses had already booked a U.K. tour, which included a stop at Coachella. Alas, that was just some wishful thinking during a slow news day.

The Talking Heads? Their name came up, but David Byrne quickly squashed that. Besides, the ex-Heads have evolved so much as musicians, songwriters and performers that none of them can see themselves in big suits to sing Psycho Killer again.

The biggest possible coup? A reunited Smiths,

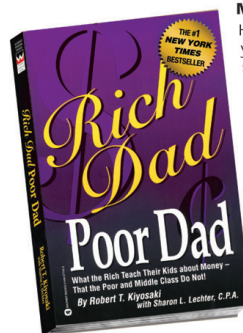
which would be Biblical. But if Morrissey, Johnny Marr, Andy Rourke and Mike Joyce were to ever step onstage and play together, the ground would surely open up and swallow all of California, creating a black hole that would in time consume the entire earth. And considering the state is already in danger of cleaving into the Pacific, no one wants to take that chance.

The Ongoing History of New Music can be heard on stations across Canada. Read more at ongoinghistory.com and exploremusic.com



A reunion of The Smiths (frontman Morrissey pictured here) would be among rock music's biggest coups.

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Television

ABC picks up Canadian cop drama

TV ABC is joining the swelling ranks of U.S. networks turning north for content, acquiring a Canadian cop drama for its primetime schedule.

The network has picked up 13 episodes of upcoming cop drama Copper — billed as Grey's Anatomy in the world of rookie cops — from E1 Television, Canwest Global Communications said Wednesday.

Copper is set to start production in Toronto in June.

REUTERS

Kenya's Style

Kenya Hunt

Read the blog at metronews.ca/kenyasstyle

For complete online movie listings, trailers, reviews and tickets, visit: metronews.ca/movies

Ratings everything

If Idol drops from No. 1, Cowell won't stay

American Idol judge Simon Cowell says he will leave the most popular show on television if it ever slips from the top spot in the ratings.

"The idea that for the next five years, I'd be doing exactly what I've been doing for the past five years ... the thought is just too depressing."



Simon Cowell

Cowell said in a recent interview in his trailer, awaiting a taping of Idol at CBS Television City. "I'd go nuts, bored out of my mind. You have to evolve, you have to change. I like the challenge of launching something new."

With Cowell's deal with Fox expiring at the end of next season, that something new could be a U.S. version of his U.K. singing competition series The X

"... You have to evolve, you have to change. I like the challenge of launching something new."

Simon Cowell

Factor. When Cowell launched Factor three years ago, the show became a massive hit that has since supplanted American Idol predecessor Pop Idol.

The Factor success was worrisome enough for Fox to forbid Cowell from launching the show in the U.S. while he's under his current Idol deal. But all that could soon change.

Asked if he'd want to stay on Idol if it slips from No. 1 in the ratings, Cowell burst out laughing.

"Absolutely not!" he said. "Being No. 1 is verging on an obsession with me. I don't like being No. 2. I don't mind when you start at No. 10 ... and you've got somewhere to go. But if you're at the point you've reached it, of course you want to stay there."

Though the Idol audience has declined over the past few seasons, the show remains far and away the ratings champ, with about 22 million viewers per episode.

Factor, Cowell noted, has increased its audience every year, which he says suggests the U.S. is ready for another music competition series.

"We have to bring in another music show," he said. "In the U.K., there is more than one type of music show running throughout the year. And I think the same thing could happen here, because for the fall, nothing really happens. It's something we've been thinking about ... I would definitely do it now."

"Maybe it'll be X Factor," he teased vaguely. "Maybe it'll be something new."

REUTERS

Naked and famous

SCANDAL Media helicopters hovered overhead and photographers camped out in front of Japan's top talent agency yesterday after one of television's cleanest-cut stars was arrested for public indecency.

Tsuyoshi Kusanagi was found drunk and naked in a public park in Tokyo in the early hours of the morning, his agency said in a statement.

He was alone and shrieking at the top of his voice, media reports said.



Tsuyoshi Kusanagi

"What's wrong with Kusanagi being naked?" he demanded of a police officer who tried to question him after receiving a noise complaint, Kyodo news agency said.

Kusanagi, 34, shot to fame almost 20 years ago as a member of SMAP, a popular boy band whose five members have gone on to monopolize Japanese TV.

Kusanagi is seen as the

"What's wrong with being naked?"

Japanese actor, Tsuyoshi Kusanagi

most serious of the five, known for his acting skills and fluency in Korean.

"He has such a clean image," one woman told commercial broadcaster TBS. "He doesn't seem like that kind of person."

But yesterday's incident risks damaging the commercial juggernaut of SMAP. Corporations including Toyota Motor Corp said they were pulling commercials starring Kusanagi. Kusanagi's agency, Johnny & Associates — a big name in Japanese entertainment — issued an apology.

"We apologize deeply for the trouble and worry caused to everyone, especially his fans," the agency said in a faxed statement, adding that it would make a further announcement on Kusanagi's future career.

REUTERS

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PEOPLE POWERED

Panettiere has jewelry stolen

Hayden Panettiere has had \$15,000 US worth of jewelry stolen. The Heroes actress reportedly returned from a trip to Australia last week and discovered someone had gotten into her Los Angeles home and taken the items. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

**Television**

Lauper wants to cast Boyle

Pop star thinks British singing sensation is 'fantastic'

CELEBRITY Cyndi Lauper says it would be "fantastic" if British singing sensation Susan Boyle accepted an offer to be in a planned film starring the U.S. pop singer and actress Tippi Hedren.

Susan Boyle, at 47, became one of the world's hottest celebrities virtually overnight after her rendition of I Dreamed a Dream on Britain's Got Talent this month. The clip has already been viewed around 50 million times on YouTube.

Lauper and Hedren are due to start work on dramatic comedy Section B, a tale about baby boomers who put their lives on hold to chase their

dreams. The film also stars Queen Emily David, a finalist on America's Got Talent.

The film's director Darla Rae has asked Boyle to appear in the film and sing a duet with David.



Cyndi Lauper

"That's great, that's fantastic," Lauper said when told by Reuters about the offer to Boyle, a Scottish spinster with untamed hair and a plain-spoken manner.

"I think she's a kick. I really like her," said Lauper.

"She stated very clearly 'I always wanted to sing in front of a large audience' and as soon as she did she said 'Thank you' and left," she added.

"She wasn't really inter-

ested in what they had to say. She did what she love to help her finally re-

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wanted to do and that was sing. That's what wonderful singers are like."

Rae said in a statement on the website of her company Film It Productions, that she has offered Boyle a role in Section B.

"Susan studied at Edinburgh Acting School in the early '90s but was forced to leave and care

alize her dream of being an actress! We've even sent offers through the local pub manager where Susan Boyle sings karaoke," Rae said.

Boyle has appeared on national television in the United States and in countless newspaper and Internet articles.

REUTERS

Examining Media Issues

InDepth

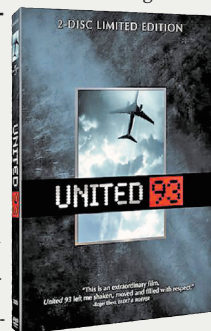
Plane safety:

The hijacking of a Can-Jet flight in Jamaica last week likely has more people thinking about the dangers of air flight, and bringing back remembrances of 9/11. Here are some suggestions for those interested in learning more about hijackings and plane safety:

- The Complete Worst-Case Scenario Survival Handbook — a quirky guide to some potential serious and not-so-serious situations — offers tips on surviving a possible plane crash (like taking a non-stop flight, if possible). The guide is available online at inference.com/category/worst-case-scenarios.

scenarios.

- For a better understanding of the in-the-air events on 9/11, rent the Oscar-nominated film United 93, one of the planes hijacked which crashed in Pennsylvania when passengers foiled the terror-



ist plot. Also look for a copy of A&E's original movie Flight 93 based on the same event.

- Visit pbs.org to read the transcript and few clips from the

American Experience documentary Hijacked, about the Sept. 6, 1970, hijackings of TWA and SwissAir flights by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Artist's rendering

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26 movies&entertainment



Who Wants to be a Millionaire will return to prime time screens in August, ABC television said on Wednesday. Original host Regis Philbin will be back to host the show on Sundays through Thursdays from Aug. 9 to 23. **REUTERS**

Millionaire back on primetime

Going Out

Metro's 7th Heaven: Metro taps what's hot right now

1 KISS Contest
MUSIC Seems like every city wants to rock 'n' roll all night and party every day. Ever since the gods of makeup-rock announced that fans get to decide the stops for their North American fall tour, online votes have been piling up for urban centres. The top four cities so far are Canadian, led by Winnipeg.

2 Qwitter
WEB Twitter may be in the thing these days, but are you? If you see your online followers (Twitter-speak for friends/admirers) disappearing fast from your network, this application may help you trace which of your 140-character stinkers was their last straw.

3 Les Miserables
MUSICAL The acclaimed musical is a hot ticket once again thanks to Susan Boyle, whose jaw-dropping rendition of I Dreamed a Dream on Britain's Got Talent wowed the world. The album with the original London cast was No. 21 on iTunes Hot 100 Downloads this week. HMV Canada also reported rise in sales, and some theatre companies are planning to revive the beloved Victor Hugo story.

4 Recession-themed shows
TV Maybe it will take a little credit crisis to revive the dwindling fortunes of quality television. Recession is the buzzword among networks these days – ABC is working on Canned, a comedy about a group of friends who get laid off the same day, while Fox is planning Two-Dollar Beer which focuses on tough times in and around Motor City Detroit. More similarly themed shows are in the pipelines.

5 Dan Brown
AUTHOR All signs point to another bumper year for the mega-selling writer. This week, Brown announced that The Lost Symbol, the much-anticipated follow-up to The Da Vinci Code, will be out in September. Also on the cards is Ron Howard's adaptation of Angels & Demons, which promises to be one of the biggest box-office draws of summer.

6 Matthew Williamson's H&M collection
FASHION Now you can get a piece of one of Britain's hottest designers with-

out having to pay designer dollars. Williamson, a favourite of the Hollywood set, is the latest designer to create a capsule collection for the Swedish chain, following such past successes created by Karl Lagerfeld, Viktor & Rolf and Roberto, all of which caused a frenzy with overnight campouts at H&M stores. The collection went on sale Thursday.



7 Summer movies
FILM The end of the Hollywood dry spell is nigh. Starting next week, the year's biggest studio spectacles will hit theatres. First up is X-Men Origins: Wolverine, starring Hugh Jackman. Next comes the rebooted version of Star Trek... and the list goes on.

FRIDAY

CA	Vu	SC	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
243	317	3	CFCN	etalk	Hollywood	Spectacle: Elivs	Ghost Whisperer (N)	Flashpoint (HDTV) (N)	News (N)		
-	-	4	OMNI	TwoHalf Men	The Simpsons	News	Wife Swap (N)	The Simpsons King	Metro		
-	371	5	KKLY	4 News at 6	4 News at 6:30	Entertainment	CBC News: the fifth estate (N)	CBC News: The National	The Hour		
245	306	6	CBRT	22 Minutes	Laughs	Comedy Fest.	Prison Break "Vs" (N)	(10:01) Dollhouse (N)	News Hour		
244	338	7	CICT	Malcolm-Mid.	Entertainment	NUMB3RS (HDTV) (N)	Departures	Out There	Out There	Your City	
246	-	8	CKAL	Law & Order: SVU	Mantracker (DVS)	The Doctors (N)	Ghost Whisperer (N)	Flashpoint (HDTV) (N)	NUMB3RS		
-	372	12	KREM	News (N)	Hollywood	Wash. Week	Bill Moyers Journal (N)	NOW on PBS	Being Served	Vicar of Dibley	
-	374	14	KSPS	NewsHour With Jim Lehrer	Wash. Week	McLaughlin	Concert-Life	Howie Do It (N)	(10:01) Dollhouse (N)	News (N)	
-	370	16	KHQ	News (N)	Be-Millionaire	Jeopardy! (N)	Prison Break "Vs" (N)	CBC News: The National	Planet Earth		
502	390	15	KAYU	The Simpsons	Raymond	TwoHalf Men	News	Larry King Live	CTV Newsnet	Cooper 360	
500	500	29	CNN	CBC News: The National	Larry King Live (N)	Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)	CTV Newsnet	Off the Record	Boxing Friday Night Fights (HDTV)	Ult. Fighter	
501	391	52	CTV	CTV Newsnet	CTV Newsnet	News	CTV Newsnet	Sportsnet Connected	Prank Patrol	Prank Patrol	Family Biz
400	400	21	TSN	NHL Hockey	That's Hockey	SportsCentre (HDTV) (Live)	Off the Record	Boxing Friday Night Fights (HDTV)	Ult. Fighter		
408	418	27	net	MLB Baseball	MLB Baseball	Sportsnet Connected	Off the Record	Boxing Friday Night Fights (HDTV)	Ult. Fighter		
552	543	39	FAM	iCarly	Family Biz (N)	Uptown Girls ** (2003, Comedy)	Brittany Murphy	Prank Patrol	Prank Patrol	Family Biz	
557	541	39	FAM	Zoey 101	Wizards-Place	Hatching Pete (2009, Comedy)	Brittany Murphy	Prank Patrol	Prank Patrol	Family Biz	
-	-	18	CHTV	The Insider (N)	E News	The El True Hollywood Story	20/20 (HDTV) (N)	Prank Patrol	Prank Patrol	Family Biz	
603	561	25	FOOD	Bobby Flay	Dinner Imposs.	Diner, Drive-In	Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares	Unwrapped	Unwrapped	Bobby Flay	
615	520	26	A&E	CSI: Miami "Vengeance"	CSI: Miami "Whacked"	Criminal Minds (HDTV)	Unwrapped	Unwrapped	Unwrapped	Bobby Flay	
617	522	32	SHOW	Wife Swap	The Outer Limits	Durham County	Testees	Kenny-Speny	Webdreams		
520	505	35	DISC	Man vs. Wild "Yukon"	Jenrich Factor (N)	Daily Planet	MANswers	MANswers	MANswers	MANswers	
628	584	43	SPIKE	Resident Evil ** (2002, Horror)	Milla Jovovich, Eric Mabius	MANswers	MANswers	MANswers	MANswers	MANswers	
522	516	45	HIST	Urban Legends	Urban Legends	NCIS	Jurassic Fight Club	Urban Legends	Urban Legends	Ice Road Trek	
581	566	102	MTV	College Life	Beatdown	Fantasy Fact.	Nitro Circus	MTV Live	Play'd	Fantasy Fact.	

SATURDAY

CA	Vu	SC	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
243	317	3	CFCN	W-FIVE	Southland	CSI: NY	Law & Order: SVU	News (N)			
-	-	4	OMNI	Omni News: Mandarin	Red Sorghum *** (1988, Comedy-Drama)	Gong Li, Jiu Jiu	Trendy Zone	Word for Word	Chinese Rest.		
-	371	5	KKLY	News	The Insider (N)	Entertainment Tonight	Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets *** (2002, Fantasy)	War-Gargantua			
245	306	6	CBRT	NHL Hockey: Conf. Quarterfinal	NHL Hockey Western Conference Quarterfinal Game 5 -- Anaheim Ducks at San Jose Sharks	Consumer Choice Awards	Doc "The Candidate"	Doc "Pick Your Poison"	News (N)		
244	338	7	CICT	ET Canada	Masterminds	Murdoch Mysteries	Lucid ** (2005, Mystery)	Jonas Chernick. (DVS)	The City Show		
246	-	8	CKAL	Without a Trace	Scrub	Guthy-Renker	Paid Program	48 Hr. Mystery	Soundstage		
-	372	12	KREM	News (N)	Scrub	Guthy-Renker	Paid Program	48 Hr. Mystery	Soundstage		
-	374	14	KSPS	Daniel O'Donnell: Hope and Praise	CSI: NY (HDTV)	TwoHalf Men	TwoHalf Men	America's Most Wanted	News (N)		
-	370	16	KHQ	News (N)	Judge Judy	CSI: NY (HDTV)	TwoHalf Men	America's Most Wanted	News (N)		
502	390	15	KAYU	House "Top Secret"	Sat. Report	Mansbridge	Sat. Report	Weekend	Doe Zone		
500	500	29	CNN	Larry King Live	Newsroom	News	CTV Newsnet	News	CTV Newsnet	News	
501	391	52	CTV	CTV Newsnet-Scott Laurie	News	CTV Newsnet	News	CTV Newsnet	News	CTV Newsnet	
400	400	21	TSN	NHL Hockey: West Quarterfinal	Flames at Blackhawks	Sportsnet Connected	The Ultimate Fighter	Saturday Night Poker	Sportsnet Con.		
408	418	27	net	MLB Baseball	Kid vs. Kat	League-Evil	Prank Patrol	Prank Patrol	Prank Patrol	Prank Patrol	
552	543	39	FAM	Natural/Sadie	Flight 29 Down	That's-Raven	Zoey 101	Movie			
557	541	39	FAM	Chef America	E News	Kitchen Nightmares	The F Word	CSI: Miami "Camp Fear"	CSI: Miami "Extreme"	X-Men: Last	
603	561	25	FOOD	Ultimate Recipe Showdown	Constantine	Trailer Park	Mutant X	Criss Angel	Criss Angel	Criss Angel	
615	520	26	A&E	CSI: Miami (HDTV)	Constantine	Trailer Park	Mutant X	Criss Angel	Criss Angel	Criss Angel	
617	522	32	SHOW	Deadliest Catch	Deadliest Warrior (HDTV)	Deadliest Warrior (HDTV)	Deadliest Warrior (HDTV)	Deadliest Warrior (HDTV)	Deadliest Warrior (HDTV)	Deadliest Warrior (HDTV)	
628	584	43	SPIKE	Deadliest Warrior (HDTV)	Moby Dick: The True Story	NCIS "Blowback"	Cribs	Cribs	Cribs	Cribs	
522	516	45	HIST	Moby Dick: The True Story	MTV News	Play'd	Cribs	Cribs	Cribs	Cribs	
581	566	102	MTV	MTV News	Play'd	Cribs	Cribs	Cribs	Cribs	Cribs	

SUNDAY

CA	Vu	SC	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
243	317	3	CFCN	Star Wars Clo.	Degrassi: TNG	The Mentalist (HDTV) (N)	The Amazing Race 14	Desperate Housewives	News (N)		
-	-	4	OMNI	Without a Trace	King	King	Bollywood Boulevard	Tonques: History Language	Chardai Kalaa		
-	371	5	KKLY	News	Backlot Buzz	Funnies Home Videos	Extreme Makeover: Home	Desperate Housewives	Brothers		
245	306	6	CBRT	Victor: The Victor Davis Story	CBC News: Sunday Night (N)	CBC News: Sunday Night (N)	Laughs	Geo. Journey	CBC News: the fifth estate (N)	fifth estate	
244	338	7	CICT	16.9 Picture	Bob & Doug	(8.01) Brothers & Sisters (N)	The Simpsons	Sit Down, Shut	Family Guy (N)	American Dad	
246	-	8	CKAL	TwoHalf Men	TwoHalf Men	Friends	Hates Chris	Kings	Rock of Love Bus	Reviews	
-	372	12	KREM	News (N)	60 Minutes	Dateline NBC "You Might Be Rich" (N)	The Simpsons	Sit Down, Shut	Family Guy (N)	American Dad	
-	374	14	KSPS	Andre Rieu: Live in Vienna	American Dad	King of the Hill	The Simpsons	Sit Down, Shut	Family Guy (N)	American Dad	
-	370	16	KHQ	News	Wheel-Fortune	Who Killed the Electric Car? *** (2006, Documentary)	The Simpsons	Sit Down, Shut	Family Guy (N)	American Dad	
502	390	15	KAYU	House "Fetal Position"	CBC News: Sunday Night (N)	Newsroom	Planet in Peril: Battle Lines	News	CTV Newsnet	News	
500	500	29	CNN	Larry King Live	News	CTV Newsnet	News	CTV Newsnet	News	CTV Newsnet	
501	391	52	CTV	CTV Newsnet-Scott Laurie	News	CTV Newsnet	News	CTV Newsnet	News	CTV Newsnet	
400	400	21	TSN	NHL Hockey: Conf. Quarterfinal	SportsCentre (HDTV) (Live)	Sportsnet Connected	Midget Hockey	2009 Telus Cup -- National Championship	Sportsnet Connected	Poker	
408	418	27	net	(6) MLB Baseball New York Yankees at Boston Red Sox	Ferris Bueller's Day Off *** (1986, Comedy)	That's-Raven	Zoey 101	Movie			
552	543	39	FAM	Natural/Sadie	Flight 29 Down	That's-Raven	Zoey 101	Movie			
557	541	39	FAM	Chef America	E News	Greatest Myst.	Greatest Myst.	Extreme Makeover: Home	At the Table	At the Table	
603	561	25	FOOD	Iron Chef America	The Sopranos (HDTV)	The Sopranos (HDTV)	The Sopranos (HDTV)	Love Sick: Secrets of a Sex Addict	Anthony Bourdain	Anthony Bourdain	
615	520	26	A&E	CSI: Miami "All In"	X-Men: Last	Trailer Park	MythBusters	Mask of the Ninja (2008, Action)	Casper Van Dien, Dana Lee	Oswald's Ghost (2007, Documentary)	
617	522	32	SHOW	X-Men: Last	Trailer Park	MythBusters	Mask of the Ninja (2008, Action)	Casper Van Dien, Dana Lee	Oswald's Ghost (2007, Documentary)	In the Line of Fire (1993, Suspense)	
520	505	35	DISC	Real Superhumans	UFC Unleashed	NCIS	Cribs	Cribs	Cribs	Cribs	
628	584	43	SPIKE	UFC Unleashed	NCIS	Cribs	Cribs	Cribs	Cribs	Cribs	
522	516	45	HIST	NCIS	Cribs	Cribs	Cribs	Cribs	Cribs	Cribs	
581	566	102	MTV	MTV News	Play'd	Cribs	Cribs	Cribs	Cribs	Cribs	

Mix of Six

Clean Calgary rain barrel sale

When: Saturday from 9 to 11 a.m.
 Where: Various locations

Calgarians can purchase a 45-gallon, food-grade plastic barrel fitted with two taps and hole (with mosquito netting) for a downspout for \$80 at one of the following four locations: Brentwood LRT Station parking lot; Anderson LRT station parking lot; Whitehorn LRT station parking lot; Calgary Coop parking lot at Richmond Road.

Golf Town

When: Sunday, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
 Where: Marlborough Mall

It's that time of year when high school seniors are prepping for grad, and this event's sure to have a wide variety of dresses to choose from. Call 207-6202 for more information

The Bow Djangos

When: Friday, 8:30 p.m.
 Where: Beat Niq Jazz and Social Club

Join Calgary's gypsy jazz band for their contemporary interpretation on classic swing and manouche jazz music.

Spring Reptile Show and Sale

When: Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Where: Ogden Legion
 If scaly skin and flicking tongues are up your alley, you can get your fix at this weekend's spring reptile show and sale.

Judy Blume play

When: Saturday, 2 p.m.

Where: Rocky Ridge Ranch Centre
 The Centre Stage Theatre Company put on a charity fundraising matinee performance of Judy Blume's Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing. Looking for fantastic entertainment for a good cause? Check out Centre Stage Theatre's take on Judy Blume's classic kids story. Tickets are \$10 at the door.

Doll Club's Doll, Teddy and Toy Sale

When: Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 Where: Acadia Recreation Centre

Raggedy Ann and Andy lovers delight — dolls, teddies and toys are about during this seasons sale by the Calgary Doll Club.

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a better place by educating girls.

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James Marsden will star in the reimagining of the 1971 thriller *Straw Dogs* that is being written and directed by Rod Lurie. The original, co-written and directed by Sam Peckinpah, and starred Dustin Hoffman. **HOLLYWOOD REPORTER**

Entertainment

New Twilight director named

MOVIES The studio behind last year's blockbuster vampire movie *Twilight* said on Wednesday that 30 Days of Night director David Slade will make the third film in the series, due out in summer 2010.

Stephenie Meyer, the author of the popular book series that the film franchise is based on, welcomed Slade's selection, and said in a statement that Slade is a "visionary filmmaker."

REUTERS

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Tarantino back in Cannes

Quentin Tarantino returns to Cannes as part of a group of familiar faces at the world's biggest film festival that includes Pedro Almodovar, Ken Loach and New Zealand's Jane Campion.

Tarantino, who won the Palme d'Or for *Pulp Fiction* in 1994, presents his long-awaited *Second World War* caper *Inglourious Basterds* starring Brad Pitt in the main competition line-up announced by festival director Thierry Fremaux on Thursday.

He will be up against previous Cannes winners including Ken Loach, who presents *Looking for Eric* starring Eric Cantona about a postman looking for life lessons from the former France and Manchester United soccer star. Campion, the first woman to win the Palme d'Or with the 1993 film *The Piano*, is showing *Bright Star* about the 19th century English poet John Keats.

Spanish director Almodovar, who has not won the top prize yet, brings an emotional drama called *Broken Embraces*, which stars his longtime favorite Penelope Cruz.

The 62nd edition of the festival will open for the first time with an animated feature when *Up*, a 3-D comedy directed by one of the creators of *Toy Story*, kicks off proceedings at the opening ceremony on May 13.

The red carpet glamour, an essential component of the festival despite its emphasis on independent art-

house fare, will be supplied by stars including Cantona and Cruz, Monica Bellucci and Brad Pitt.

Fremaux acknowledged that the festival could not ignore the global economic crisis but he brushed aside talk of empty hotel rooms and cost-shy studios cutting back on attendance.

"We are all of us going to see a festival that will not be unaware that the world is in crisis," he told a news conference. "We are going to try to make a festival

which continues to be what it is," he said.

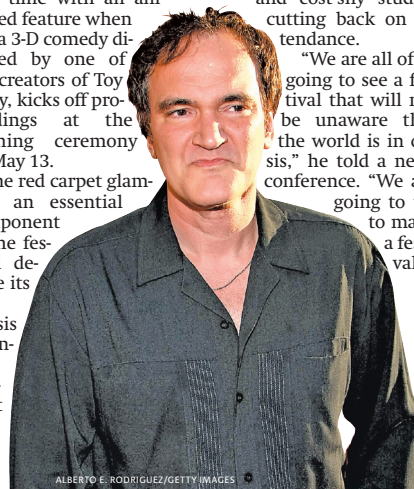
"We haven't felt the slightest reluctance on anybody's part, anyone saying 'we have to watch out because of the crisis'. I would say that ... more than ever Cannes is the rendezvous for creators and the industry."

The number of past Cannes participants certainly gives a sense of familiarity to the films that will be judged by jury president Isabelle Huppert.

Lars von Trier, who won the Palme d'Or in 2000 for *Dancer in the Dark*, is back with *Antichrist* a psychological horror film, while Ang Lee, whose *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* was a hit at Cannes in 2000, shows *Taking Woodstock*, about the 1960s music festival.

REUTERS

Director Quentin Tarantino brings his latest film, *Inglourious Basterds* to the Cannes Film Festival.



ALBERTO E. RODRIGUEZ/GETTY IMAGES

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Today

Morning Clouds
3°C / -7°C

Saturday

Showers late
7°C / -4°C

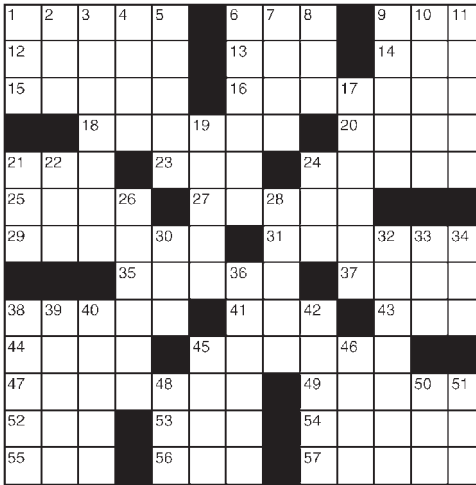
Sunday

Partly Sunny
4°C / -3°C

Andrew Schultz, Weather Specialist – Breakfast Television

"I get to spread the word on how your day, evening or weekend will shape up with our ever-changing weather here in Alberta."

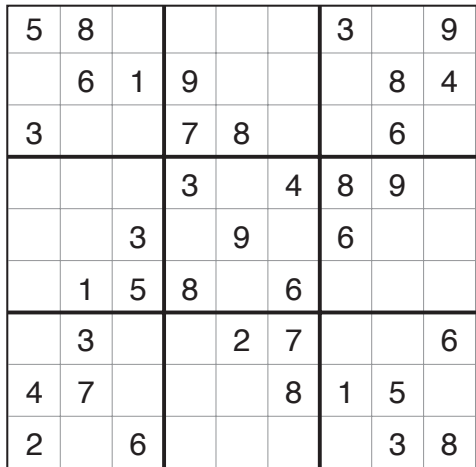
WEEKDAYS AT 6 A.M.



Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.



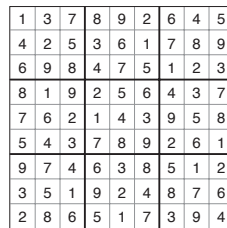
Crossword across

- 1 Transfer
- 6 Decorate Easter eggs
- 9 Stannum
- 12 Not just prompt
- 13 "Alley —"
- 14 Pindaric piece
- 15 Pipe type
- 16 Chirp
- 18 Clan-related
- 20 Peruse
- 21 However
- 23 Smoke, for short
- 24 With fervor
- 25 Twist out of shape
- 27 Confuse
- 29 "Rabbit ears"
- 31 Unparalleled
- 35 Frock
- 37 Ringlet
- 38 Proverb
- 41 Turner or Williams
- 43 Squid squirt
- 44 Mysterious character
- 45 Disinclined to brag
- 47 Sparkle
- 49 Theme
- 52 Einstein's birthplace
- 53 \$ dispenser
- 54 Met show
- 55 Storm center
- 56 Kid's question
- 57 Vestige

Crossword down

- 1 Ball VIP
- 2 Corn spike
- 3 Animal
- 4 Winglike
- 5 Hammerstein's contribution
- 6 Senility
- 7 Long, mournful wail
- 8 Beside (Pref.)
- 9 Carried
- 10 Perfect
- 11 Square
- 17 Catastrophic
- 19 Authoritative text
- 21 Merit-badge org.
- 22 Islander's strings
- 24 Calendar abbr.
- 26 Thingie
- 28 Amalgamated
- 30 Exist
- 32 Not one to see it through
- 33 Grecian vessel
- 34 Wapiti
- 36 Tempestuous
- 38 Battle verbally
- 39 In a boring way
- 40 "Pokemon" genre
- 42 Showroom samples
- 45 Part of SMU (Abbr.)
- 46 Erstwhile froth
- 48 Spotted, to Tweety
- 50 Rage
- 51 Craze

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:



Find today's answers + play more games at metronews.ca

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:

Under 13 min Genius
13-17 min Scholar

17-21 min Smart
21-25 min Not bad
25+ min Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day



Tuna and Tomato Pizzas

INGREDIENTS:

3 tsp (15 mL) extra-virgin olive oil
1 onion, minced
1 can (14 oz/398 mL) crushed tomatoes
1/2 tsp (2 mL) dried oregano
Pinch sugar
2 thick pizza crusts
2 tbsp (25 mL) tomato paste
1 can (6 oz/170 g) water-packed tuna, drained and flaked into chunks
4 tsp (20 mL) capers, rinsed
8 pitted black olives, sliced
Salt and fresh-ground black pepper
Fresh basil leaves

METHOD:

1. Preheat oven to 425°F (220°C). Heat 1 tsp (5 mL) oil in small pot over medium heat. Add onion and sauté until soft, 4 minutes. Add tomatoes, oregano,

sugar and salt and pepper to taste. Bring to boil, then reduce heat and leave to simmer, uncovered, 10 minutes, stirring occasionally.
2. Put pizza crusts on 2 baking sheets. Spread 1 tb-sp (15 mL) tomato paste over each crust. Spoon tomato sauce over pizzas, then add tuna. Sprinkle with capers and olives. Drizzle remaining 2 tsp (10 mL) of olive oil over tops.
3. Bake pizzas until crusts are crisp and golden, 10 minutes, or following package directions. Sprinkle with torn basil leaves and serve at once.

SERVES 4

rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to rd.ca or check out Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!



Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Excellent advice helps to clear your mind. Uncertainty is exposed. An old favourite finds the consolation of love.



TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
A simple task is counter-productive. A heartless tale is an amusing revelation. There's a good reason for someone's hostility.



LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
A misunderstanding focuses on wasting time. A friend might not sidestep a feud. You'll inspire others and help them to grow.



SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
Satisfaction comes from trusting your instincts. Your hopes are raised by reaching an agreement. Someone's whimsy gets in the way.



GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Recover from heartache by asking for help. You'll stumble over foolish beliefs. An old lesson now has special meaning.



SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
Exceptional evidence of past issues is presented. Drag yourself away from a technical conversation. Be very clear about your distress.



CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Consideration for others causes a risk to arise. Responsibilities slow you down to a crawl. There are twinges of guilt over a tempting offer.



CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
A fearful friend feels sorry for himself. Don't encourage anyone to avoid work. You can attain power by giving assistance.



LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
A stranger's defeat won't drain your energy. A chat results from a wise decision. A false alarm defines incompetence.



AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
Rise above panic and have new hope for the future. Ask to be released from obligations. A companion's blunder goes unpunished.



VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Be especially careful with neighbours. An honourable person is checked for imperfection. Renewal comes from uninhibited career goals.



PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
Investigate an ally's tenacity. A mark of respect is hard to find. Make it easy for others to talk to you.



WORDY GURDY

- BY "CRICKY" ROCKY KANE
- Every answer is a rhyming pair of words (like FAT CAT and DOUBLE TROUBLE), and they will fit in the letter squares. The number after the definition tells you how many syllables in each word.
1. Poetically, above a grocery shop (1)
 2. Genuine ardor of a fanatic (1)
 3. Chauffeur a quintet (1)
 4. Nile snakes' struggles for air (1)
 5. Frailer one on a quest (2)
 6. Bluesy Bonnie's packing cases (1)
 7. Horseshoe maker's access-blocking fences (3)
- ANSWERS: 1. BEAT ZEST, 2. DRIVE FIVE, 4. ASPS CASPS, 5. WEATHER SPHERE, 6. RAITER CHATTER, 7. PARRERS HARRERS

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Michael J. Fox jumped at the chance to ditch his "Mr. Nice Guy" reputation as a bitter, drug-addicted character on TV show *Rescue Me*. "People don't often think of me as a bitter misanthrope ... it's too fun to pass up," he says. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Celebrity Buzz



Gavin's gay lover?

RUMOUR Gavin Rossdale had a five-year relationship with a male pop star, femalefirst.co.uk alleges. The former

Bush singer — who has two sons with wife Gwen Stefani and a daughter from a previous relationship — allegedly had a long romance with androgynous British singer Marilyn in the '80s.

Marilyn, 46, said: "He was the love of my life. We were together five years, but it felt like 40."

In 1995, singer Boy George — a close friend of Marilyn — alleged Rossdale, 43, and Marilyn had had an affair in his auto-

biography *Take It Like A Man*, but both men denied the claims.

However, Marilyn — whose real name is Peter Robinson — insists he lied in order to protect the Rossdale's burgeoning career.

The singer added to *In Touch Weekly* magazine: "He was just becoming successful in America. I agreed to lie against every grain of my being."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Madonna hires crew for Mercy

KIDS Her initial attempt to adopt three-year-old Malawian Mercy James may have failed, but Madonna has made it clear she isn't giving up. In fact, she's even hired a nanny and a nurse

to look after the young girl while her lawyers work out the adoption appeal, according to *Hollyscoop*.

"As Mercy's legal guardian, I authorize where she goes," orphanage director Anne Chikhwaza explains. "She is staying with Madonna's people as a visitor. There is nothing wrong with that."

METRO WORLD NEWS



Heidi hopes fourth baby is a girl

BABY Heidi Klum is expecting her fourth child with husband Seal — and she's hoping it's a girl. The couple already has two sons, Johan and Henry, and a daughter, Leni. "We'd be happy with either, but it would be a lie if I said we weren't all hoping for a little girl — especially Leni, because she would love to have a little sister," Klum tells *Us Weekly*.

METRO WORLD NEWS



Jennifer's love triangle

RELATIONSHIP Jennifer Love Hewitt was so focused on planning her wedding to Scottish actor Ross McCall she didn't realize she was falling for someone else, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

When the actress and McCall split at the end of last year, Hewitt fell into the arms of *Ghost Whisperer*

co-star Jamie Kennedy — and now she can't believe she didn't consider a relationship with her old friend before.

Speaking candidly about her new romance on Wednesday's *Ellen DeGeneres*, she said, "Breakups are awful, they're really painful, they really suck on lots of levels but what I think is great about life is the universe always brings you something really beautiful and great afterwards — and that's kinda where I am now, so it's OK."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Salma's second wedding

MARRIAGE Newlywed Salma Hayak and her husband, Francois-Henri Pinault, who were married at city hall in Paris on Valentine's Day, are finally throwing a real wedding ceremony for friends — this weekend.

The couple will retie the knot in Venice, Italy, in front of friends including Javier Bardem and Penélope Cruz, according to *E!* News.

But it won't be a big to-

do, despite recent rumours Hayak was going to spend \$2 million US on the ceremony.

"I think spending millions of dollars on a wedding is ridiculous and it has never been my dream," she has said. "I would never do that."

METRO WORLD NEWS



Tensions run high on the Idol set

PEOPLE Tensions are high backstage at *American Idol* — and not between the contestants. New judge Kara DioGuardi is reportedly fed up with the way she's being treated by Simon Cowell and Randy Jackson, and this week's performance show was apparently particularly bad.

"She was so upset, she couldn't hold it back," a source tells

OK! Magazine. "Kara was telling everybody, 'I don't care anymore. I'm going to quit!' She didn't sign up to be anybody's punching bag." That's what she feels she's become."

METRO WORLD NEWS



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Kim's new nickname

Kim Kardashian has a new nickname: Zorro. "Poor little Kimmie laid out too long and got a major sunglasses tan! It was SO funny though!" her sis Khloe blogs. "We called her Zorro the rest of the trip hahahaha." **USMAGAZINE.COM**

**Celebrity Buzz****Fred Durst the 'happiest man alive'**

ENGAGEMENT Limp Bizkit frontman Fred Durst is thrilled that his band is getting back together, but he's even more excited that his girlfriend agreed to marry him. "Great news — I'm getting married to Esther in July," the singer announced on his Twitter. "It's on! Break out the bubbly!" Durst also posted a photo of the engagement ring, writing that he is "the happiest man alive."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

**Pink and Carey reunite**

RECONCILIATION Pink and Carey Hart are determined to make their marriage last forever, and want to show it by renewing their wedding vows, **femalefirst.co.uk** reports.

The couple, who recently reunited after separating in February 2008, is rumoured to be planning a small beachside ceremony for friends and family to show them they are committed to staying together.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

**Angie sticks up for anti-gay marriage beauty queen**

POLITICS Republican actress Angie Harmon is standing up for Miss California Carrie Prejean, who has been criticized for saying on Sunday's Miss USA pageant that she does not support gay marriage, **usmagazine.com** reports.

"If someone is standing up for how they feel and talking about their beliefs, why are we punishing her for that?" Harmon, 36, told **usmagazine.com**. "I just

don't understand how we've gotten to a place in America where, if someone doesn't agree with everyone, then they are punished for it."

Prejean, 21, insists her controversial answer "cost" her the crown. (Shanna Moakler, director of the Miss California USA pageant, denies this.)

Said Harmon, "I heard something in the car on the way over here, and it

was like, 'She wasn't punished,' but she lost because of it. So she was punished.

"I find it incredibly disappointing," she went on. "I mean, that is what she thinks. That's what she believes. I'm not going to punish anyone for that. I don't know if she lost because of it, but if she did, I think that is very disappointing. In the Miss USA, she can't stand up for what she thinks or what she be-

lieves in? I don't understand that."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



GETTY IMAGES

LiLo sets breakup record straight

PEOPLE Tired of letting the tabloids speak for her, Lindsay Lohan stopped by Ellen DeGeneres' talk show to chat about her split from Samantha Ronson.

Lohan claims the breakup came "out of nowhere" and that Ronson caught her completely off-guard.

"I had no idea what was going on. I just hadn't seen her in, like, a

week. She, like, disappeared," Lohan said. But she's hopeful the split isn't final. "I really care about Samantha and we'll see what happens," she says.

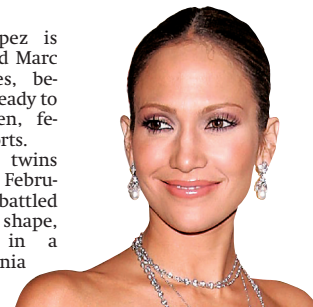
"Maybe when we're fully in the right place. And I love her."

METRO WORLD NEWS

**J.Lo to Marc: No babies!**

FAMILY Jennifer Lopez is fighting off husband Marc Anthony's advances, because she's not yet ready to have more children, **femalefirst.co.uk** reports.

Since welcoming twins Max and Emme in February 2008, Lopez has battled hard to get back in shape, even competing in a triathlon in California last September.



She's not ready to give up her buff post-baby body just yet — despite Anthony's desperation to expand their brood.

Lopez tells **People** magazine, "Marc is like, 'What are we waiting for?' I'm like, 'We gotta wait 'til Mum's ready. I'm in the best shape of my life. And best mindset.'"

METRO WORLD NEWS

Truth to Slumdog screen romance?

RUMOUR Slumdog Millionaire stars Dev Patel and Freida Pinto — who play lovers on-screen, and in real life have denied reports that they're an item — were spotted kissing during a romantic night out.

Patel was visiting Pinto in Israel, where she's shooting her latest film, ac-

cording to Britain's **Daily Star**.

And their co-star, Anil Kapoor, claims something is up between the two. "When I meet them, I feel there is something happening," he said recently. "They definitely make a great pair."

METRO WORLD NEWS



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